

# Treat the Women



## Save the Children

*Conference Proceedings*

*Cover Art:* Mabel, an inmate at the Women's Community Correctional Center, created the Symposium logo that appears on the cover. Mabel explains that the female figures represent a variety of transitional phases. The first is a confident woman who faces her future directly. The second is an uncertain woman looking off to the side, who realizes she needs help. The third female is a closed-eyed adolescent child waiting for her incarcerated mother. The child knows that she, and all children of incarcerated parents, also need help. An ocean wave crashes around them, symbolically cleansing their spirit and washing away turmoil and rage, thus creating inner peace.

# CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

## HAWAII SYMPOSIUM ON FEMALE OFFENDERS

November 29 - December 1, 2000  
Kaua'i, Hawai'i



## Symposium Co-Sponsors

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Casey Family Programs

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Women in Need, Inc.

A special *mahalo* to the Hawai‘i inmates at the Central Oklahoma Correctional Facility who made the dreamcatchers for the symposium delegates; and to the incarcerated women throughout Hawai‘i, whose shared stories helped to deepen our understanding of their lives and families.

# Acknowledgments

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## Background

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When a busy judge received a call from Chief Justice Ronald T. Y. Moon asking her to attend a symposium on women offenders, she was reluctant because she felt she already knew enough about the subject matter based on years of working on the criminal calendar. Notwithstanding those misgivings, she found herself one of four delegates.

The delegation was comprised of members from each branch of government: Marian Tsuji, Deputy Director for Corrections, Hawai'i Department of Public Safety; Allicyn Hikida Tasaka, Executive Director, Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women; Representative Marilyn Lee, Hawai'i State Legislature; and Judge Riki May Amano, Third Judicial Circuit. For the most part, the delegates had not known each other until they met at the symposium. What they learned in Washington, D.C., and what they did about it afterwards, demonstrates the power of collaboration.

### Compelling Data and Argument

National experts, corrections professionals and Attorney General Janet Reno passionately presented an issue that has reached critical proportions; that is, women are being incarcerated throughout America at an alarming rate. Since 1980, the female prison population has increased at twice the rate of men. In the last decade alone, the number of women in prison has quadrupled!

Recent studies show that the female offender population is unique in many ways. For instance, a 1991 national survey conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) reflected 43% of all respondents experienced some type of assault prior to incarceration, 33.5% endured lifetime physical abuse and 33.9% reported lifetime sexual abuse. How big was the sample? The BJS interviewed one in every eleven women in state correctional facilities for a grand total of 38,798 individuals. The numbers are mind-boggling.

The differences do not end with the distinctive family histories reported by women offenders. Different patterns of behavior are also a practical reality. A common example used by corrections staff to describe gender contrasts is: when a male offender is instructed to "go down the hall and turn left," he usually obeys. When a female offender is given the same instruction, 9 times out of 10, she responds with the question "why?" Inexplicably, the response makes sense.

The bottom line is that men and women are different. They respond to different stimuli and they are motivated by different factors. They have different societal roles. In utilizing non-gender specific classification systems for men and women, building identical penal facilities, and offering ostensibly equal opportunities for treatment, training, and rehabilitation, the criminal justice system has unwittingly failed to effectively address the issues of and problems experienced by the woman offender.

While an increase in the woman offender population raises concerns, it is the impact on children that is most troubling. Second and third generation female offenders are repeating the criminal behavior of their mothers and grandmothers. It is apparent that the behavior modification systems currently used by our criminal justice and human service agencies are ineffective in reducing or eliminating criminality of female offenders and their progeny.

The good news relayed to delegates at the national symposium is that corrections experts all over the country are becoming aware of the problem and taking steps to do something about it. These measures include: continual identification and evaluation of female offender issues/needs, development of gender responsive treatment, adoption of gender effective penal classification instruments, and implementation of programs that include the children of incarcerated moms. Obviously, this is a new and evolving area in the science of corrections.

### *An Act of Conscience*

Soon after returning home, Representative Lee drafted a bill to add a new chapter to the Hawai'i Revised Statutes that would address parity for female offenders. Deputy Director Tsuji created the Community Advisory Board on Gender Responsive Programming, which serves as a community liaison to the Department of Public Safety and provides counsel and advice on internal and external programs for women offenders. Ms. Tasaka and Judge Amano visited the Women's Community Correctional Center in Kailua, where female offenders expressed the hope that attention to their needs would be forthcoming.

Ignorance is indeed bliss when it comes to noble causes. The Community Advisory Board on Gender Responsive Programming decided that a statewide conference patterned after the national symposium should be held within the year. Steering and planning committees were formed to coordinate this effort. Initial major decisions included: the symposium would be held on a neighbor island to minimize distractions from other duties; the number of invitees would be limited to allow more customized presentations and collaborations; and delegates would be comprised of a delicate balance of decisionmakers and policymakers from Hawai'i's criminal justice and human services communities.

The planning committee was determined to create a learning environment that would maximize opportunities for dialog among and between the participants, which would result in concrete plans of action. An ambitious program was devised that utilized a variety of creative formats and panel presentations by national and local speakers. Reality checks were probably not high on the agenda.

The Department of Public Safety, the Judiciary, and the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women provided initial resources and staffing. Then, through the efforts of Boni Grimm, the Casey Family Programs gave a critically needed financial commitment and enabled the planning committee to dream on. The Sheraton Kaua'i Resort in Poipu, Kaua'i was selected as a suitable site. Sub-committees were assigned responsibility for presentation of specific parts of the program. As word spread, people began to inquire about the symposium.

Through the planning committee's ongoing search for funds, additional moneys were secured from the Hawai'i Community Foundation, Corrections Program Office, National Institute of Corrections, Office of Youth Services, Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention and the Hawai'i Department of the Attorney General. Many more government and non-profit agencies and private businesses gave in-kind support. Speakers were contacted. Delegate selection was discussed, debated and finalized. Judge Eden Elizabeth Hifo agreed to moderate the event.

Finally, from the evening of November 29th through the afternoon of December 1st, the Hawai'i delegates to the National Symposium on Women Offenders proudly co-chaired the Hawai'i Symposium on Female Offenders, "Treat the Women, Save the Children." Kaua'i Mayor Marianne Kusaka welcomed approximately 130 invited delegates to the island and Lieutenant Governor Mazie Hirono delivered the opening address. Hawai'i Department of Public Safety Director Ted Sakai shared his insight and Chief Justice Moon, in a letter to the delegates, offered his thoughts and encouragement. The State of Hawai'i was making its voice heard loudly and clearly on the issue of women offenders.

*It's Not Woodstock But...*

Ordinary citizens shaped the future of the most powerful country in the world through their activism in the 1960s. The political and cultural changes that resulted from that defining moment in history continue to affect decisions and policy three decades later. By joining together and heeding the call for reformation, a cadre of Hawai'i Symposium alumni are on the move to alter the paths of generations of women and children.

Maya Angelou's pensive poem, "I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings," describes the plight of women offenders passionately:

The caged bird sings with a fearful trill  
Of things unknown but longed for still.  
And his tune is heard on the distant hill  
For the caged bird sings of freedom.

Behold the sound from the hill...it is an unchained melody that links us all in time and space and enhances the inter-connectedness of humanity. It is a call to paint a picture of a different future.

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- Profile of Hawaii’s Female Probationer, Adult Probation Division, State of Hawai‘i Judiciary, 2000.
- Fact Sheet on Hawaii’s Incarcerated Women, Hawai‘i Department of Public Safety, 2000.
- Statistics on Hawaii’s Parolee Population, Hawai‘i Paroling Authority, 2000.
- “Like mother, like daughter? Why more young women follow their moms into lives of crime,” Toni Locy, U.S. News and World Report, October 4, 1999.

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## Introduction

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Have you ever wanted to alter the direction of a person's life—where she had come from and where she was going? Do you feel that the changes that need to be made are so multidimensional and overwhelming that the task is impossible? How many times have you wished you had a magic wand that could fix “the system”?

Everyone working in criminal justice and human services has had such thoughts at one time or another. Staggering increases in the prison population present challenges in all sectors, but witnessing the impact on children triggers the loudest alarms as inter-generational criminality proliferates at an exponential rate. It should come as no surprise that female offenders are the most rapidly growing segment of the prison population.

The Hawai'i Symposium on Female Offenders that took place on the island of Kaua'i from November 29 to December 1, 2000, gave 130 selected individuals a unique opportunity to examine and re-examine their beliefs, realities and work in the area of criminal justice and human services related to women offenders. The conference was the outgrowth of a National Symposium on Women Offenders held in Washington, D.C. in December 1999, sponsored by the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

As delegates to the national symposium, the co-chairs felt compelled to bring back the message of urgency and to spur action within Hawaii's criminal justice and human services communities. With the generosity of sponsors and the commitment, enthusiasm and hard work of many, many dedicated individuals, the Hawaii symposium became a reality within a year after Attorney General Janet Reno sounded the call to arms.

How do you define a successful symposium? The delegates left with:

- a. Beliefs that their efforts together can make a difference
- b. Concrete action plans
- c. Specific assignments
- d. A “gimme a break; this ain't Oz” attitude

The Final Answer is yet to be determined. But if success can be measured by optimism, hope and renewed energy, the Hawaii Symposium on Female Offenders was a grand success!

It is a pleasure to present the following chapters summarizing the Symposium proceedings.

## Executive Summary

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The Hawai‘i Symposium on Female Offenders was an unprecedented event that brought together over 100 decision makers from across Hawaii’s criminal justice system and human service agencies that deal with women offenders and their children. It was the first time that female offenders had been identified as an issue of statewide concern. It was the first time that diverse segments of government and community were brought together to consider the issue from a systemic perspective.

Symposium delegates learned that the number of women behind bars has increased dramatically. Since 1990 the number of women in America’s jails and prisons has tripled, while the number of men has doubled. Hawai‘i is no exception to this national trend. In 1980 there were 30 female inmates in Hawai‘i; in 1990 there were 172. Today, Hawai‘i has over 500 female offenders. Thirty percent of Hawaii’s female felons are currently housed out-of-state at the Central Oklahoma Correctional Facility.

With increased awareness of the issues that women offenders bring to the criminal justice system, correctional systems throughout the country are devising different approaches to programming. They are reviewing management philosophies, developing gender responsive strategies and services, and considering interventions that reduce recidivism. Hawai‘i is part of this movement to address female offenders’ multi-faceted needs due to their unparalleled population growth.

National experts at the symposium noted that the demographic, social and criminological profiles of women offenders are very different from male offenders. Women are more likely to be convicted of non-violent crimes compared to male offenders. Women are three times more likely to have histories of physical and sexual abuse than male prisoners. They tend to suffer from a pattern of mental illness and family violence. They are also more likely to have a substance abuse problem, and are thus particularly vulnerable to harsh, drug-related sentencing policies. And, women offenders have different concerns regarding emotional support in prison and social support when they return to the community.

The profile of Hawaii’s female offender mirrors the national profile. She is more likely to report childhood physical and sexual victimization (60%). She is serving time for felony drug (35%) or property offense (36%) and has experienced some violence (80%) in her life. She has a history of substance abuse (95%) and mental health problems (33%). She is a woman of color, of Hawaiian/part Hawaiian ethnicity (40%). She is between the ages of 21 and 39, and has at least one child (60%).

Programs in correctional and community settings that address women offenders’ treatment needs are often not adequate or in short supply. Moreover, programs and services are usually not multi-disciplinary or gender responsive. Treatment frequently does not incorporate women’s psychological perspectives and learning styles; their histories of trauma, abuse and unhealthy relationships; and their role as mothers.

Delegates learned that gender *does* matter in terms of women’s pathways into the criminal justice system. And, that gender matters in terms of how the system responds to women under their supervision. For example, when standards and policies that are generated to deal with violent male offenders are applied to non-violent female offenders, the differences that sex and gender make are minimized. Speakers reiterated that gender matters in terms of producing success and failure.

Delegates also listened to two girls who were committed to the Hawai‘i Youth Correctional Facility. Their remarks echoed concerns that presenters shared about failures elsewhere in the criminal justice system to appropriately accommodate females. The juvenile offenders reported that girls in confinement typically had fewer chances to take advantage of opportunities compared to boys. They related how group sessions often involve a type of aggressive confrontation that makes girls uncomfortable.

Other panel discussions emphasized that programs and policies need to address realities in the lives of female offenders so that girls and women are prevented from entering and re-entering the system. There was much discussion devoted to a therapeutic approach—as opposed to a punitive one—within correctional settings, with an emphasis that treatment take place in the least restrictive environment possible. Panelists provided models of this type of treatment, as well as alternatives to incarceration.

A major focus of discussion was the critical need for aftercare. Job training, especially in non-traditional jobs at higher wages; a clean and safe place to live; access to medical and mental health services; child care for their children; and transportation were among the practical needs of women leaving prison and transitioning into the community.

Many of the symposium speakers underscored the negative impact on children of incarcerated parents, particularly among children of single mothers. More than 1.3 million children under the age of 18 nationwide have mothers who are involved with the criminal justice system, including 250,000 whose mothers are in prison. When a woman goes to prison, her children usually are not taken care of by their father. Most are taken care of by relatives or are in foster care. Women offenders have different needs than their male counterparts regarding childcare and in maintaining links with their children.

Over the course of the symposium, teams conferred with one another to identify and address the multi-dimensional needs of female offenders and their children, families and communities. The teams developed a list of priorities and tasks that could be accomplished with available resources. Each team completed an action plan detailing their activities, thus setting the stage for the implementation of the plan.

The symposium ended with delegates receiving dreamcatchers, which were made by Hawaii’s women inmates housed in Oklahoma. It was given as a small token to remind delegates not to forget them, as they are thousands of miles from home and family. The dreamcatchers served as a symbolic gift that embodies the spirit of bringing dreams to reality. Each delegate then shared his/her dream with another person, and both exchanged dreamcatchers as a gesture of support for each other’s dream.

Concluding with a traditional Hawaiian prayer, participants joined hands to form a large circle. They expressed hope that the information shared, commitment exchanged and dreams created would be carried forward and nurtured. Delegates were reminded that Hawai‘i—although small in size but large in creative diversity—has the capacity to be an innovator in the way America treats women offenders and their children.

## Opening Address

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Honorable Mazie K. Hirono  
Lieutenant Governor of Hawai‘i, Honolulu

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**Research suggests that 14 million people in this country will spend at least some of their lives behind bars and that a growing percentage will be women.**

Lieutenant Governor Hirono noted that the growing rate of women’s involvement in the criminal justice system as a burgeoning problem. Research suggests that 14 million people in this country will spend at least some of their lives behind bars and that a growing percentage will be women. Yet, the numbers of women offenders are still small and manageable enough so that something can be done about preventing generations of women from ending up behind bars. The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that through coordinated efforts, much can be achieved.

She pointed to the fact that many of the delegates present at the symposium have worked on the front line for many years. Many delegates have also worked in the legislative arena, focusing on people in the system who are particularly in need of advocacy. She noted that society may not want to focus on the incarcerated population, and on the issues surrounding those in Hawaii’s jails and prisons. She commended the individuals present for their dedication to this population.

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**Who is taking care of the growing numbers of children of incarcerated women? Often, the answer is that they are falling through the cracks.**

Lieutenant Governor Hirono reflected on the tragedies experienced by women in the justice system and stressed the necessity for appropriate programs due to their unique needs. She quoted statistics from the Bureau of Justice that show that when men are incarcerated, over 90% of the time their children are taken care of by the children’s mothers. However, when women are incarcerated, fewer than 20% of their children are taken care of by the fathers. She asked the question, “Who is taking care of the growing numbers of children of incarcerated women?” Often, the answer is that they are falling through the cracks. She emphasized the need for intervention for women offenders and their children and gender-responsive services for women in prison.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed her commitment to act on behalf of women. She wants to bring attention to issues of importance to women, particularly those being pursued at the symposium. She expressed her desire to work with participants in an effort to salvage lives, stressing the importance of the task at hand. She concluded by conveying her support for the symposium participants and asking them to call upon her for support as well in the future. The Lieutenant Governor expressed confidence that a major focus on women offenders would arise as a result of the symposium’s efforts.

## **Building the Case: Why Focus on Women Offenders?**

Moderator: Judge Eden Elizabeth Hifo  
First Judicial Circuit, Honolulu, HI

Panelists: Nicole H. Rafter, Ph.D.  
Professor, Law Society & Policy Program  
Northeastern University, Boston, MA

Myrna S. Raeder, J.D.  
Professor, School of Law  
Southwestern University, Los Angeles, CA

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**Rafter explained that women in prison are treated differently from men because of a “numbers” problem and a “nature” problem.**

Dr. Nicole Rafter described how the history of female offenders differs from their male counterparts. Rafter asserted that it is important to focus on woman offenders because:

- Women have seldom been treated equitably in prisons;
- They are perceived as more deserving on the basis of their personal histories and pathways to crime compared to male offenders; and
- Programs for women can become the forerunner of programs for men as well.

Rafter explained that women in prison are treated differently from men because of a “numbers” problem and a “nature” problem. There are currently nine times more men than women in prison. It is easier to ignore women because there are, and have always been, fewer female offenders compared to males.

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**Rafter argued that women do not receive impartial justice because of problems arising from a system designed for a predominantly male population that has different characteristics from the female population.**

The nature problem relates to stereotypes about women’s character or what 19<sup>th</sup> century America called the “cult of true womanhood.” The core of this belief system viewed women as child-like creatures, an attitude that was applied to female offenders. Rafter stated that this attitude led to practices and policies intended to prepare women for marriage and economic dependence on men.

Rafter described how “partial justice” toward women has evolved throughout the years. She provided many examples of women in prison being treated less well than men, primarily due to a comparative lack of programs for women. Women do not receive impartial justice, Rafter argued, because of problems arising from a system designed for a predominantly male population with certain distinctive characteristics that are different from the characteristics of the female population.

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**The philosophies that have governed how women offenders are treated correlate to the changes in America's social policies over the decades.**

In presenting the history of women offenders in American penal institutions, Rafter suggested that the philosophies that have governed how women offenders are treated correlate to the changes in America's social policies over the decades.

Starting in the 1820s, women were incarcerated with men. Although they were treated the same, their experiences were different. They had no privacy and tended to be neglected by the all-male staff. Their low numbers and society's beliefs about the character of women's natures combined to make women's experience of incarceration very different than men's.

During the reform movement that followed the Civil War, the forerunner organization of the American Correctional Association endorsed the rehabilitation of prisoners. They also held the radical belief that women should be incarcerated separately from men, supervised by female personnel, and provided with female-specific programs.

The female reformatories that followed based their treatment of women on the model of "separate spheres," or the disparate public and private worlds inhabited by men and women. Females, thought to be more delicate and domestic than men, were trained to be good wives. This policy remains influential today, Rafter noted.

The rehabilitation philosophy that dominated corrections for a century was followed by a backlash in the 1970s. Political conservatives argued against "coddling" criminals, while leftists argued that rehabilitation constituted coerced treatment. At the same time, the women's movement and the civil rights era brought issues of equality and justice to the forefront. Efforts were made to get women into non-traditional work that paid a living wage. Sex differences were minimized and sex equality dominated policy discussions.

Rafter noted that while "formal equality was impossible due to the numbers problem," assertions about women's natures continued to influence policy. There were still more program opportunities for men and no funds allocated for developing or testing classification systems for women. Even after the 1970s, Rafter stated that the nature problem continued to play a role in women's treatment. She pointed to the contemporary belief that because women offenders are less violent, they are less important than male offenders.

Rafter suggested that public opinion may be reverting to the rehabilitation philosophies of the 1970s and that by 2025 there will be fewer and smaller institutions for women that are more conducive to rehabilitation.

Professor Myrna Raeder, building on this perspective, discussed current criminal justice policy—particularly the war on drugs—and its impact on the female offender. She noted the escalating numbers of women involved in the criminal justice system. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics:

- About 3 million women are arrested each year, and there are almost 1 million held in custody.
- More than 1.3 million children under age 18 have mothers who are involved with the criminal justice system, including about 250,000 whose mothers are in prison.
- Women offenders are victims themselves. Nearly 60% of women in state prisons reported being physically or sexually abused at some point in their lives. About one-third were abused by an intimate or family member.
- A large percentage of women are incarcerated for drug law violations. About 40% of female offenders were reported by their victims to be using drugs or alcohol, or both, at the time of arrest.
- Women are being drawn into the criminal justice system at a rate of one woman per every 109 women in the United States. This means that more than 950,000 women are under some kind of criminal justice supervision.

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**Raeder noted that women have been caught up in sentencing schemes designed to deal with both the war on drugs and the problem of male violence.**

Raeder noted the increases have not been due to changes in women's criminality. She said women have been caught up in "sentencing schemes designed to deal with both the war on drugs and the problem of male violence." Simultaneously, judicial discretion has been reduced and sentencing enhancements added.

Despite concerns about the numbers of women entering legal supervision, women are still doing the same types of crime they have historically committed. The numbers of women involved in violent crimes have gone up only slightly, with most murders occurring in the context of intimate relationships. The rate of incarceration for violent crime by women has actually declined while the rate of incarceration for drug offenses has increased. Raeder asserted that women offenders' problems are really the social problems that were formerly dealt with in the community.

Raeder emphasized that the criminal justice system is not equipped to deal with mental health issues, medical problems, and especially the problems of children of incarcerated mothers. Two-thirds of incarcerated women have children. When a woman goes to prison, her children typically are not taken care of by their father. Most are taken care of by relatives and 10% are in foster care.

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**An “orphan generation” may be created and an increase in inter-generational crime may be encouraged.**

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**Raeder concluded that the solution lies in setting up more community correctional programs for women and their children.**

In the context of foster care and harsher sentencing policies, Raeder stated that the Adoption and Safe Families Act has created a host of new problems. The Act mandates a short timeline for parents to reunify with their children in foster care. Those who are unable to demonstrate their parental fitness within 12 to 15 months of their children’s entry into dependency court are in danger of having their parental rights terminated. With longer sentences, the law impacts women severely.

Raeder said the reality is that women are primarily responsible for children, and the negative effects of these new criminal justice and child welfare policies will be felt sharply by women and children. Raeder theorized that an “orphan generation” may be created and an increase in intergenerational crime may be encouraged.

To break this cycle of offending, Raeder suggested mothers should be held accountable, but in ways that will allow them to succeed with effective solutions. She highlighted the Hawai‘i judicial system’s supportive stance on restorative justice. She believes this perspective can lead to a focus on reintegration, which will allow women to succeed.

Raeder concluded that if systems continue to criminalize relapse—a well recognized feature of recovery from addiction—the result will be a system of re-incarceration that views technical violations as severely as other types of criminal activity. She asserted that the focus on “zero tolerance” for drug use for women on parole would ensure the cycle of recidivism. Further, because women’s issues in treatment and recovery are different from men, applying treatment models designed for the male population would result in failure.

Raeder noted that Hawaii’s unified family court system has been recognized as a national innovation. She believes that Hawai‘i could also become an innovator in the important area of treatment. She urged the symposium participants to bring back the Hawai‘i women inmates incarcerated in Oklahoma, but not to build another prison for them. Raeder concluded that the solution lies in setting up more community correctional programs for women and their children.

Questions from the audience followed. A participant asked about financial resources to build community correctional centers. Bloom noted that in California \$15 million targeted for prison construction was reallocated to building or renovating community-based facilities that could house pregnant and parenting women and their children. Other questions and comments followed about mandatory sentencing, judicial discretion in sentencing, and the emotional and social stability of children of incarcerated parents whose caregivers are often poor and suffering other hardships.

## Programs Matter: Girl's Offenses and Gender Specific Programming in Hawai'i

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Moderator: Debra Shiraishi-Pratt  
Hawai'i Girls Project, Office of Youth Services, Honolulu, HI

Panelist One, currently committed to the Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility

Panelist Two, formerly committed to the Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility, now working and attending school

Debra Shiraishi-Pratt opened the session by drawing attention to the findings of a recent report, *Programs Matter: Girls' Offenses and Gender Specific Programming in Hawai'i* by Meda Chesney-Lind (2000).

The report indicated that nationally one out of every four juvenile arrestees is a girl. In Hawai'i the figure is one out of three. Girls are less likely than boys to be arrested for violent offenses or serious property crimes. Rather, status offenses such as truancy, running away, and other minor problems with the law based largely on age play a significant role in girls' arrests. Running away, often a symptom of serious family problems, is a leading factor in girls' arrests.

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**Native and Part-Hawaiian females make up 63% of the population at HYCF, even though they comprise only 17% of the 15-19 year olds in the State.**

There are approximately 40 girls incarcerated at the Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF). Their average age is 15 years. Native and Part-Hawaiian females make up 63% of the population at HYCF, even though they comprise only 17% of the 15-19 year olds in the State. Approximately 42% of those committed to HYCF were probation violators. Most were runaways and many have histories of abuse.

The data served as context for the stories of the two panelists who shared their experiences, both of whom have histories of incarceration at the HYCF.

Panelist One said she was optimistic upon her arrival to Hawai'i with her mother, but explained how she later "hung out with the wrong crowd" and got involved in a robbery. She was a runaway, was abusing drugs, running the streets, alienated from her home and religion, and was finally arrested and incarcerated to the HYCF.

Panelist Two and her four sisters grew up in an abusive home, where the adults used drugs. Her family had many problems that culminated in the murder of an uncle who was involved with drugs. As a result of her many past traumas, she grew very angry as a young adolescent. However, she found people to talk to at HYCF about her problems and learned how to deal with her angry feelings.

Delegates asked the panelists questions about deterrence, intervention, prevention and programs that are helpful.

Panelist One noted that more careful and supportive supervision might have helped her become more responsible. She noted that many of the girls in HYCF are not bad, but have been subjected to negative experiences and environments. She speculated that some girls have serious emotional problems and many have self-esteem problems.

When asked whether some kind of early intervention prior to her arrest might have helped her avoid trouble, Panelist One responded that parents have to take responsibility first. She noted that many young people would not have had these problems if parents had been helped. But she also spoke of the importance of personal responsibility.

Panelist One stated that the threat of being committed to the HYCF had not served as a deterrent. However, both panelists recalled being extremely frightened upon their arrival at the HYCF.

Further discussion ensued on the issue of programs and how they are structured for males. Panelists were asked how programs ought to be changed to be more effective. Panelist One criticized what she called “antagonistic group therapy,” saying that groups should instead “build people up.” She feels that programs structured for boys at the HYCF focus on work training, while girls remained in the cottages, cleaning up and doing other tasks. She concluded that boys got more privileges, got to go on more outings, and got picked more to do things. She said that girls “went along for the ride,” without much say in what happened.

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**“The environment at HYCF was conducive to criminal attitudes,” and “you forget how to treat people nicely and a part of you changes.”**

Regarding the issue of recidivism and the kinds of programs needed once girls leave the HYCF, Panelist One commented that the environment of the HYCF was conducive to criminal attitudes, and “you forget how to treat people nicely and a part of you changes. We need programs to help us build our self-esteem and help our emotional distress.” She argued that boys had more chances of “bettering themselves.” She concluded that if girls had more programs, there would be fewer of them at the HYCF.

Both panelists drew attention to the importance of family communication and support. They both urged everyone to listen to girls and to get involved with girls’ lives.

## Her Story: From Number to Name

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Naya Arbiter, Founder and Principal  
Extensions Consulting Group and Amity  
Porterville, CA

*We need to get her out of prison. And, get prison out of her.*  
—Naya Arbiter

Naya Arbiter explored the ways in which society is largely insensitive to the harsh realities faced by women offenders. She asked participants to imagine a woman who has been beaten, raped, and addicted. A woman who has been arrested, processed, tested, fingerprinted, transported a thousand miles from home, and has experienced the cultures of degradation and dehumanization often encountered during incarceration.

Arbiter remarked that she had once been such a woman, having been incarcerated at four different institutions. She had experienced abuse, had sold drugs, and used them. She had been thrown away. The difference between her experience and that of most of the 500 women incarcerated by the State of Hawaii, she said, is that she got a “well constructed chance.”

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**A safe, supportive environment can help women “make the journey back from number to name.”**

Arbiter noted that many women offenders come from histories of violence and victimization. She asserts that it is crucial for them to have “a chance to tell their truth, to name their experience.” In order to help women heal from trauma and abuse, treatment programs need to focus on creating safe, supportive environments so that women can “make the journey back from number to name,” Arbiter argued.

Videotapes of several women speaking about how they were isolated without women role models or peers illustrated how incarcerated women have been silenced and prevented from expressing their experience. The video clips Arbiter showed also relayed vivid stories of abuse from family members or intimates, and included women who attacked their loved ones in response to their traumatic experiences.

Arbiter detailed the abuses that make up the culture of degradation experienced by women before and after prison, examined the patterns of abuses, and pointed out the failure of institutions to address these problems. She speculated that America “runs away” from the story of the incarcerated woman by not really looking at the unique needs of women in the criminal justice system and addressing them appropriately.

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**Women need to have an “informed witness,” a person whose role is to listen and allow women to speak freely so they can develop ways, other than criminal actions, to deal with their problems.**

Arbiter said women need to have an “informed witness,” a person whose role is to listen and allow women to speak freely so they can develop ways, other than criminal actions, to deal with their problems. She explained the critical need to develop a “vocabulary of sanctuary” that could be used to create therapeutic environments for women in correctional facilities.

Arbiter proposed a three-pronged approach in helping women offenders with their treatment and recovery process:

- Look at her, and acknowledge she has different needs;
- Give her sanctuary, where she can form authentic relationships; and
- Learn to listen with empathy, and affirm her survival in the face of many odds.

Based on her personal experiences, Arbiter asserts that criminal justice program staff need to increase their own emotional tolerance and comfort level when women share their experiences. She noted that staff may complain that working with women is difficult, and may not want women to be able to express themselves. Accordingly, women in many treatment settings do not feel safe enough to talk about their traumatic and abusive pathways to criminality.

Arbiter emphasized however, that a safe, supportive environment and an “informed witness” are of utmost importance in paving the way for women to give voice to their past experiences of violence, assault and victimization. She believes this is essential to changing the course of a woman’s criminality.

She closed her remarks by saying that while she had a well constructed chance to make the journey back “from number to name,” many women offenders do not. Arbiter expressed hope that the symposium participants might offer that same chance to Hawaii’s population of over 500 incarcerated women.

## Luncheon Keynote Address: Women in the 21st Century

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Stephanie Covington, Ph.D.  
Co-Director, Center for Gender and Justice  
La Jolla, CA

### *TRANSCRIPT OF REMARKS*

It is regrettable that all of the clatter about the passing of the old millennium and the beginning of the new one has distracted us from what is a moment of rare opportunity. Big birthdays are occasions for celebrations and 2001 will be the biggest collective anniversary that any of us is likely to celebrate. Such events are, even more, occasions for reflection about the past. The past holds some insights for the future, especially for us as women.

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**“From almost every perspective, women’s lives have been transformed, whether they’re mothers and/or workers, consumers and/or leaders.”**

The *New York Times*, as part of its periodic special reports on the millennium, noted that the single most important change in the past 1,000 years has been the transformation in the lives of women. To look back over the sweep of ten centuries now is to see a profound revolution in the status of women. From almost every perspective, women’s lives have been transformed, whether they’re mothers and/or workers, consumers and/or leaders.

Women are now a majority of the electorate. They receive 55 percent of the nation’s college degrees and are much more willing to reinvent themselves as adults by returning to school. They live longer, and because they survive their husbands, they wind up owning a large share of the nation’s personal wealth. They own more than a third of the businesses, employ a quarter of the workers and make up nearly half the students in medical and law schools. Among two-income families, nearly a quarter of the wives now earn more than their husbands.

Yet this is a very narrow snapshot of women’s lives. In other parts of the world, women may be killed by their male relatives for refusing to marry the man of the family’s choice, or on the mere suspicion of promiscuity. The status of women has actually declined in parts of Eastern Europe since the collapse of Communism.

But you still may say—with dozens of qualifications and a nervous glance over your shoulder—that women have won equality, at least in much of the developed world. But even in the West, it still seems doubtful that women will soon reach full equality.

At the present rate, it will be 2270 before women are as likely as men to become top managers in corporations and 2500 before there is gender equality in Congress. So far, no culture has constructed a truly level playing field for sharing family responsibilities and job opportunities. Even in Sweden, which has ample day care, most women work in the public sector. Women may receive support in caring for children, but this doesn't remove inequities in the work force. Therefore, we can say that although women's progress in the past thousand years has been incredible, we still have a long way to go.

This period on the cusp of the coming millennium is one of important transitions. In looking at where we are now, we cannot forget our history, our past, lest we repeat it—both as individuals and, collectively, for those of us working in corrections. We need to remember this history despite the fact that women are deprived of their historical consciousness in an ongoing fashion. Women are excluded from daily histories—by being featured in only 15% of front-page news stories and then usually depicted as victims or perpetrators of crime or misconduct. Second, so called “women's magazines” sanitize the issues that are important to women. Third is the recurrent ideological theme that women will lose their femininity by taking themselves seriously.

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**“They are stunned to discover that in their mothers' lifetimes women could not go to the bank and get credit on their own.”**

Last is the issue of forgetfulness. Young women on college campuses think that discrimination is a thing of the past. Or, that the struggle for the vote lasted maybe 10 years, not more than 70. Or, that women got the vote when African-Americans did. Or that it has always been legal to get an abortion in America. They are stunned to discover that in their mothers' lifetimes women could not go to the bank and get credit on their own. They are amazed to learn that it was African-American middle-class women's clubs that led the movement against lynching. They didn't know that women chained themselves to the gates of Congress, or went on hunger strikes and were force-fed—so that young women far into the future could take their rights for granted.

Let us spend a few minutes on some statistics that describe the history of women in the United States and some current realities:

- In 1970, 33% of all couples had two breadwinners, in 1986 54.5%, and in 1995, the number was 61.1%.
- In 1970, less than 50% of women were employed (ages 25-55), in 1986 67%, and in 1997, 79% were employed.
- In 1970, 5.6 million families were maintained by women, in 1992, the number of families maintained by women was 12.2 million.
- In 1991, the number of families maintained by women below the poverty level was 10 times as high as those maintained by men.
- Of the 2 million poor female-headed families with children in 1986, 71% of these mothers received no assistance from the child's father.

- Women's earnings in 1995 were 71% of that of a man's, unchanged from 1992, 1989, and 1986.
- In 1993, women were 7 times more likely than men to be the victim of a violent crime.
- In 1996, women were 10 times more likely than men to be victimized by an intimate.

Let's also open our world view by including the lives of women internationally. What do their realities include?

- There are just under 3 billion women in the world today, and about half of them live in only six countries: China, India, the United States, Indonesia, Brazil, and Russia.
- Women produce 80% of all food in sub-Saharan Africa. Yet men receive 90% of the credit extended to small farmers.
- Worldwide, fewer women are literate than men—64% of women compared with 80% of men.
- Worldwide, women make up a disproportionately small percentage of political decision makers (12% of national parliaments and 7% of ministerial and sub-ministerial-level positions).
- In 1997, almost 6,000 women around the world became infected with HIV every day. Globally, women account for 41% of adults who are living with HIV/AIDS.

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**“The lives of these women and girls represent all women's issues—magnified.”**

As we turn to the subject of women and girls in the criminal justice system, we likewise need to adjust our mental maps to include the realities of their lives. The lives of these women and girls represent all women's issues—magnified. These women's issues are the social issues of our time.

So the millennium now provides us with an important time of reflection about the past. In looking back at the history of women and corrections, we find that until the 1870s, custodial institutions neglected women and treated them with inferior care. With the birth of the reformatories in the 1870s, facilities for women provided a gentler environment, fresh air, matrons and an agenda that stressed the redemption of so-called fallen women. Women who were incarcerated received domestic training—rehabilitation not just retribution.

On the other hand, the small numbers of women in corrections led them to be incarcerated at locations distant from their families in systems that were designed for men. Staffing was often insufficient and inappropriate—which made women vulnerable to unwanted sex. Some women were incarcerated in small units adjacent to men's. Women received fewer services and programs than did men. The facilities were often separated from the institution, remaining in disrepair and neglect.

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**“...the reformatory movement gave us a double standard... longer sentences for women and fewer programs compared with men.”**

Thus, the reformatory movement gave us a double standard for men and women, with longer sentences for women and fewer programs compared with men. The female criminal in general was considered dark, evil, and unladylike. She was treated in the reformatory as childlike and wayward for her crimes, which were predominantly property and public order crimes, often involving sex and drugs.

It is also well to remember that racism has historically been part of the criminal justice system, with 97% of admissions being white women who were considered “worthy of reform.” Black women were segregated or placed in custodial penitentiaries.

From our vantage point in the present day we can see history being repeated. Improvements have been made in correctional facilities for women and girls, as they have been in the lives of other women. However, the issues remain the same. Women and girls are incarcerated in facilities designed for men. These facilities are ignored and in disrepair. Programs are designed for men, and women in general get fewer programs and services compared to men. These women are the most vulnerable in our society, generally poor women of color. They reflect the intersection of three “isms”: what Barbara Bloom has called the “triple jeopardy” of race, class, and gender.

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**“If women earn 74% of what men earn, that means that bail costs women more. “**

The issues that affect the lives of all women have profound impacts on the lives of women involved in the criminal justice system. Economically, if women earn 74% of what men earn, that means that bail costs women more. In fact, there are many more women in jails who can’t make bail. A female offender may well be less likely to get help from families or a male partner. Women do the majority of childcare. This means that women in the system are often the custodial parent. Many women are faced with the loss of custody, with visitation problems in prison, and the shame associated with losing parental rights.

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**“There is apt to be more family denial of a woman’s substance abuse. Research is often focused on men’s health issues. Reproductive health issues often go untreated for years.”**

Women are more stigmatized by substance abuse than are men. There is apt to be more family denial of a woman’s substance abuse. Her addiction is often embedded in abusive relationships. And, there is a lack of gender-responsive services. Health care systems in prison reflect societal conditions for women. Women in prison have high rates of AIDS. Research is often focused on men’s health issues. Reproductive health issues often go untreated for years.

Women involved in the criminal justice system report a higher incidence of abuse over the course of their lives. Their problems flow from abuse, mental illness, and addiction—conditions that are highly interdependent in this population. Standard policies and procedures used in prisons serve to re-traumatize women who have been raped or otherwise abused.

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**“Sometimes progress will appear to be halting—not unlike that of a child climbing across a series of monkey bars, a process of reaching forward and letting go at the same time.”**

All of this information is not meant to simply depress us, but to help us to arrive at a place where we realize new challenges, changes, and choices. The first tenet in making change is to acknowledge what is, in both our individual lives and in our professional lives. Change will take place with difficulty, and sometimes progress will appear to be halting—not unlike that of a child climbing across a series of monkey bars, a process of reaching forward and letting go at the same time.

We find ourselves in an exciting time and a difficult time. America today lacks social vision. Our society is best described by Gandhi, who talked about “politics without principle, wealth without work, commerce without morality, pleasure without conscience, education without character, science without humanity, worship without sacrifice, and a justice system without justice.” In fact, when asked what he thought about Western civilization, Gandhi remarked that it would be a good idea.

Perhaps we should be hesitant to make predictions about the future. If we look back at some of the predictions made 100 years ago about the year 2000, we find that they often say more about the predictor’s own era than about what will happen next. As women move into the next millennium, what do they need for the journey? What can they take with them as we all move forward? What is our vision for our lives, for the women and girls we serve, for the correctional system, and for our society?

The past century has been one of triumph and tragedy. Our inhumanity is reflected in statistics on war, domestic violence, and childhood sexual abuse. World War II was supposed to end all wars. The end of the Cold War, which brought at least the hope of peace, instead saw as many as 64 wars going on around the world.

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**“Current challenges in corrections for women include the invisibility of the women themselves, the lack of resources for women and girls, and the lack of gender-responsivity.”**

The world shows us two kinds of suffering. There is natural suffering, caused by acts of nature like floods, earthquakes and so on. There are also the events in our lives that happen through the process of birth, adolescence, aging, and death. The second kind is created suffering, the pain that we as human beings create for ourselves and others. Part of the tragedy of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the development of the prison industrial complex—based on our experience of the penitentiary—an experiment that failed and yet has become legitimized.

Another part of the tragedy of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is the rate of criminal justice involvement in the lives of women and girls. This is not only a statewide or federal trend but also a worldwide trend. Current challenges in corrections for women include the invisibility of the women themselves, the lack of resources for women and girls, and the lack of gender-responsivity.

What will we need for the journey into the 21<sup>st</sup> century? The primary challenge concerns the human spirit. We must go inward to balance the outward focus of the last 100 years. The Chinese characters meaning change signify both danger and opportunity. Our focus during the 20<sup>th</sup> century has been in an outward direction. By focusing inward in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we will expand our consciousness.

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**“We have settled for short-term planning rather than planning for generations.”**

Women’s spiritual history has been lost. It was once apparent to us in the ancient goddess civilizations, in histories of healers, and the skills of birthers. The values of the great feminine spirit have been denied for centuries while the great masculine energy has been distorted. A receptive, holistic way of seeing has been replaced by blind faith in a truncated, rational mind. Our perspectives are characterized by force, not flow, by either/or thinking instead of “both” and “and.” We focus on competition at the expense of cooperation, power *over* rather than power with. We have settled for short-term planning rather than planning for generations.

One of the spiritual tools available to all of us is one we often suggest to women struggling to recover from their addictions. The Twelve Steps, based on universal spiritual principles, are effective mental health tools. Although we might criticize the language as sexist, simplistic, and reductionist, the power is in the spirit beneath the words.

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**“Our new path must contain a sense of the interconnectedness of all life.”**

What do the women we work with tell us? They themselves are the best guides. In order to create change and transformation in the lives of women and girls, we must remember our history. As we reach out for what’s ahead, we need to let go of what’s behind. We need to have a vision, asking ourselves “what is the work?” Our new path must contain a sense of the interconnectedness of all life.

I would like to leave you with some words of wisdom from Eleanor Roosevelt. She said, “When will our consciences grow so tender that we will act to prevent human misery rather than avenge it?”

Thank you.

## Women's Pathways to Criminality

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Meda Chesney-Lind, Ph.D.  
Professor, Women's Studies Program  
University of Hawai'i, Honolulu, HI

Dr. Meda Chesney-Lind began by quoting data to illustrate the dramatic rise in women offenders. In the 1970s only half of the United States had separate, stand-alone women's prisons housing approximately 5,600 women, or 3% of the incarcerated population. By 1999, there were over 90,000 women in prison in the United States, comprising approximately 7% of the total prison population.

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**In the year 1980, Hawai'i had 30 women inmates; today there are over 500.**

In the year 1980, Hawai'i correctional facilities held 30 women inmates. Chesney-Lind noted that once the state's only women's prison opened, this very small number of women offenders escalated rapidly. Today, Hawai'i has over 500 female inmates. This significant increase, Chesney-Lind noted, was not a planned event in Hawai'i, nor was it a planned event in terms of the nation.

Chesney-Lind then explored the image of women offenders, referring to the contemporary media's fascination with accounts of women's criminality, especially violent crime. This image of the female criminal has long held a central place in media narratives about women, beginning with the 1970s image of the "drug-crazed" female hippie, she said. By the 1990s, the media's featured image of the violent female perpetrator was a woman of color. Often she is much younger and much more violent than the 1970s version.

These are the images, but what are the facts about women's violence? Chesney-Lind pointed out that despite media attention on purported increases in female violence, patterns of women's offending have not changed much over the past several decades. Women commit the types of crimes they always have, including prostitution, property crimes, and drug offenses.

However, there has been an increase in the number of women arrested for two offenses in particular: assault and aggravated assault. Upon closer examination, Chesney-Lind noted much of the increase in assaults for women resulted from mandatory arrests for domestic violence. The policy of mandatory arrests in domestic cases across many jurisdictions has led to a new category of offenders: girls and women arrested for domestic violence.

Chesney-Lind pointed out that girls and women in Hawai'i were once being arrested for domestic violence at a rate of 33%. After concerned community

members began to educate the legislature and police about the concept of primary aggressors, police officers began receiving training about whom they are supposed to be arresting in these kinds of cases. Chesney-Lind used this situation to illustrate how arrest rates for women can increase without a major change in their behavior.

However, more women in Hawai‘i are incarcerated for drug offenses compared with women nationally. In 1997, 53% of the women doing time in Hawai‘i were charged with drug offenses. The comparable national average is 33%. Going back in time to 1979, one woman in 10 in the United States was doing time for drug offenses.

Chesney-Lind maintained that the war on crime, and the war on drugs in particular, has had unintended and disastrous consequences for women and for their children. She explained that women’s drug offenses often consist of illegal drug sales involving small amounts of money. These small-time sellers have a higher risk of being arrested.

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**A Hawai‘i study showed that nearly 50% of women offenders were incarcerated for probation or parole violations.**

Moreover, current policies in the probation and parole systems have criminalized relapse, Chesney-Lind argued, and have made it very easy to identify people who relapse. Those who relapse are then returned to prison in large numbers for essentially having drug problems, she concluded.

According to Chesney-Lind, nearly 50% of the women in a Hawai‘i study were incarcerated for probation or parole violations. She noted this statistic should be viewed as an opportunity to create better policies to deal with violators. Chesney-Lind commented that even the Republican governor of California has called for alternatives to re-incarcerating women. She urged symposium participants to do something better and smarter, since this situation is not about women committing new crimes.

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**Chesney-Lind said women offenders are often treated with “vengeful equity,” where standards that have been generated to deal with violent male offenders are applied to non-violent female offenders.**

She then commented on how women in prison are treated. Women offenders are often treated with “vengeful equity,” which she defined as “equity with an edge,” where standards that have been generated to deal with violent male offenders are applied to non-violent female offenders. A case in point is that of shackling women inmates during childbirth—a practice used with men who take the opportunity to run while seeking medical services. Chesney-Lind said the challenge is to craft a brand of “just practice” which is “equitable without being the same.”

Chesney-Lind pointed to the inmate classification as another relevant issue. She noted that the Hawai‘i Department of Public Safety is working with the National Institute of Corrections on the issue of classifying female inmates. She said women offenders need to be looked at from the perspective of what we know of them as people—rather than merely applying the same classification criteria we have used for men.

Chesney-Lind noted that issues of women's victimization had been referred to frequently during the symposium. She cautioned against pathologizing women, however. She noted that when women leave prison, they have practical needs: a safe place to live, transportation and jobs. Women leaving prison have the same needs as their male counterparts.

Parenting is a much more salient issue for women who need to be in touch with their children, she said. Chesney-Lind asserted that is why sending female inmates to mainland prisons is particularly wrenching. She pointed to national statistics that reveal 57% of incarcerated women do not have any contact with their children. Additionally, keeping in touch through collect phone calls can pose financial difficulties for families of both male and female inmates housed on the mainland.

Chesney-Lind concluded by saying that everyone in the criminal justice system in Hawai'i has a great opportunity to turn things around. She hopes that concerns about women and children may serve as a sort of "Trojan horse" for spreading new attitudes about incarceration more broadly.

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**By focusing on the needs of women and children, Chesney-Lind hopes the stereotype of the "demonized offender" could be dismantled.**

By focusing on the needs of women and children, Chesney-Lind hopes the stereotype of the "demonized offender" could be dismantled. In that way, we can begin to get a complete picture of the humanity of all offenders and their families, she said.

Chesney-Lind closed by noting that when she began working in the field of criminology, she wanted to write a dissertation about how Hawai'i had women's crime but no women's prison. She would like to end her career writing that same dissertation.

## Women Offenders and Their Children

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Denise Johnston, M.D.  
Director, Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents  
Eagle Rock, CA

Dr. Denise Johnston began by reviewing the three major roles of parents: caregivers of children; children of their own parents; and as individuals with their own needs, desires and motivations. These roles, she said, influence how people operate as parents. Johnston stated that only when a woman offender has identified and met her own needs can she go on to identifying and meeting her child's needs.

She then presented a profile of women offenders who are parents. They generally have a low pre-incarceration income. They are disproportionately women of color. They tend to be unmarried, have only a high school education, and few job skills. Many have had a family member who has been incarcerated. And, the majority of them have been sexually assaulted as adults.

Johnston explained that incarcerated mothers tend to have the following characteristics:

- First pregnant in their mid-teens;
- Have an average of 2.4 dependent children;
- Have children by different fathers;
- Did not live with the father of any child prior to incarceration; and
- Usually retained legal custody of their children.

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**Johnston said women offenders tend to identify mother-child separation as the most significant issue of incarceration.**

In talking with women offenders who are mothers, Johnston has identified a number of common maternal characteristics. The women tend to identify mother-child separation as the most significant issue of incarceration. They have appropriate parental attitudes, characteristics and concerns. They are ineffective parents as a result of compulsive behaviors. However, they are tenacious in the pursuit of retention of family ties. Johnston said they are much like other mothers except for behaviors that interfere with their parenting, the same behaviors that interfere with successful living in other spheres.

Johnston pointed out that the general population erroneously assumes that the children of women offenders are mostly in foster care. This is not the case. Most women offenders are not incarcerated; they are on probation or parole. The children of incarcerated women are usually placed with the mother's mother, with only 10-15% of their children in foster care.

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**Fewer than 50 % of women offenders receive child visits. ... Women are less likely to reunify with their children after each incarceration.**

Johnston noted that women offenders have difficulty remaining in contact with children during incarceration. Fewer than 50% receive child visits. Women are less likely to reunify with their children after each incarceration. The more times they are incarcerated, the less likely they are to get back with their children after that incarceration.

Johnston went on to discuss the impact of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 which established mandatory reunification timelines regarding children in foster care. These timelines are often less than the average woman's prison sentence, which is 22 months. The law requires reunification in 15 months. Johnston noted that a female who goes to prison pregnant, or has a child less than three years of age, is at high risk for having her parental rights terminated. This is because sentences are much longer than 15 months, she explained.

Johnston turned to other findings from her work with women offenders and their children. She argued that women offenders are likely to have had negative child care-giving experiences. They are likely to have had ineffective parent role models and traumatic childhood experiences. They are likely to be overwhelmed by their own unmet needs, especially treatment for substance abuse. And, they may well have difficult-to-care-for children, particularly those who may have been exposed to drugs or alcohol during pregnancy.

Johnston found that the distinguishing characteristics of children of offenders are inadequate quality of care, lack of family support, and experiences of childhood trauma. There was a high prevalence of trauma due to separations, bereavements, emotional abuse and neglect, and witnessing violence, with virtually all of the children having experienced some sort of trauma in childhood. She commented that the incidence of these phenomena is unheard of outside of nations at war.

Johnston summarized some findings from the Casey Family Programs study of children in long-term foster care. Most children in foster care have had parents who have been offenders in the past. Fewer than 5% of prisoners have children in foster care. About 15% of children entering the child welfare system have incarcerated parents. And, between 70 to 80% of the children in long-term foster care have parents who are criminal offenders.

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**Children of women offenders have often experienced high levels of prenatal stress, especially due to prenatal drug exposure.**

Johnston also discussed the problematic realities confronting children of women offenders. They have often experienced high levels of prenatal stress, especially due to prenatal drug exposure. A McCall study of children of incarcerated women found very high rates of child morbidity and mortality. As a result, correctional facilities have implemented changes in the way they provide medical care for pregnant women.

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**The majority of children of women offenders have fathers who are also criminal offenders.**

Children of women offenders often experience multiple caregivers and placements, early and multiple mother-child separations, and separations from siblings due to different custody statuses among children of the same parent. The majority of children of women offenders have fathers who are also criminal offenders.

Johnston noted these children may have been exposed to their mother's drug use and crime. In fact, about 20% of these children were present at the time of their mother's arrest. The children tend to be toddlers and very young children under the age of six. Johnston has observed continuing exposure to trauma in at least 30% of these children.

These experiences lead to the following common effects among children of women offenders:

- Early emotional and relationship problems;
- Academic and learning difficulties;
- School behavior problems;
- A characteristic pattern of having problems with authority; and
- Increasing likelihood of permanent mother child separation with age.

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**The lifetime risk of incarceration for male children of offenders is up to three times the national average.**

Johnston noted that the trauma associated with childhood experiences for this group give rise to compulsive behaviors, including sexual and physical aggression and eventual criminal involvement. She found that the lifetime risk of incarceration for male children in the group is up to three times the national average.

Johnston discussed some general principles regarding working with children of incarcerated parents. She stated that true child advocacy requires working with parents. Furthermore, child advocates have to advocate for parents in order to work effectively on behalf of children, she noted. Recalling a theme from an earlier presentation at the symposium, she argued that parents are people who are supposed to be the "informed witnesses" for their own children, as nature intended.

Questions and comments from the audience followed Johnston's presentation. A delegate cited a study of methamphetamine use in Hawai'i and noted that the family can be a double-edged sword. The study found that drug and alcohol use often occurs in families, and women who have been victimized by their families often go back to these families. Thus, the family can be both a blessing and a curse for women and their children. Johnston said we should acknowledge that the family, rather than the drug dealer on the street, may be a vehicle for drug use transmission. However, she maintained that we should also work toward ensuring that these family settings are safe for children.

## Promising Interventions: Looking at Gender-Responsive Programming

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Moderator: Laura Crites  
Director, Hawai'i Women's Business Center, Honolulu, HI

Panelists: Barbara Bloom, Ph.D.  
Professor, Sonoma State University, Petaluma, CA

Stephanie Covington, Ph.D.  
Co-Director, Center for Gender and Justice, LaJolla, CA

Alice Dickow  
Director, Saint Francis Women's Addiction Treatment Center of  
Hawai'i (WATCH), Honolulu, HI

Lorraine Robinson, ACSW  
Director, TJ Mahoney and Associates, Honolulu, HI

This session provided participants with a better understanding of the treatment needs of women offenders. The speakers also outlined strategies to successfully address gender issues in correctional and community settings.

Dr. Barbara Bloom began by drawing attention to the phenomenal growth in the number of women offenders in the criminal justice system. In the past two decades, the number of incarcerated women has increased nearly eight-fold, from 12,300 in 1980 to over 90,000 in 1999. Similar increases have taken place with women who are on probation and parole. In total, there are nearly one million women under criminal justice system supervision in the United States. The dramatic rise in numbers has forced criminal justice organizations to understand how to improve outcomes for women in their systems, Bloom said.

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**Gender does matter...in terms of women's pathways into the criminal justice system...in terms of how the system responds to women under their supervision.**

Of critical importance is that gender *does* matter, Bloom asserted. Gender matters in terms of women's pathways into the criminal justice system. Gender also matters in terms of how the system responds to women under their supervision, she added.

Why gender responsive programming? Why not do programming for women the same way that is done for men? Bloom pointed out that many of the programs and services created for men do not necessarily reflect the realities of women's lives accurately.

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**Nearly 8 in 10 mentally ill women in the criminal justice system reported abuse in their lives.**

Because women's paths to crime are usually quite different from men, women have different needs. Staff needs to focus on the aspects of women's lives that propel them into the system, Bloom noted. Among the issues needing attention are problems such as childhood trauma due to abuse, the early onset of alcohol and drug use, and a myriad of physical and mental health issues.

There are also more women being dually-diagnosed with both substance abuse and mental health problems. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, nearly 8 in 10 mentally ill women in the criminal justice system reported abuse in their lives.

Bloom also noted the impact of poverty and homelessness, especially among women who recycle through the jail system because they are homeless. Lack of education and job skills, sporadic employment, lack of work for women who are returning to their communities from jail or prison—often as single mothers—need to be examined not only in the context of improving outcomes for women, but also for improving outcomes for children and families. Additionally, family reunification is an important issue, even more critical now that the Adoption and Safe Families Act is being implemented, Bloom said.

Services for the family should include peer support groups, safe and drug-free housing, childcare, and connections to community services. The multi-dimensional issues that women face and their multifaceted needs call for a more “complex and nuanced response,” one that recognizes gender differences, Bloom concluded.

Ideally, this type of approach means creating an environment that is conducive to gender responsive programs. Bloom explained such an environment would foster a feeling of safety, where trust can be built, and where healthier relationships and connections can be developed.

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**Bloom referred to the broader social disparities affecting women offenders as “triple jeopardy,” when race, class, and gender inequalities intersect in their lives.**

A second component of gender responsive programming is to have a theoretical perspective that underpins the program. She noted that many programs have no real theoretical foundation that links them to women's lives. For example, social learning theory has led to the widespread use of cognitive behavioral programming in the United States and Canada. Bloom said this approach is based on research from Canada, a meta-analysis that was primarily focused on research among males. The results were then generalized to females. Bloom emphasized that a program's theoretical perspective must meet the psychological and social needs of women.

She also called attention to broader social disparities affecting women offenders. She referred to these macro-level factors as “triple jeopardy,” noting how race, class, and gender inequalities intersect in their lives.

Based on these individual and social realities, Bloom outlined some guiding principles that need to be in place prior to implementing gender responsive programming.

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**There needs to be understanding and agreement that *equal* does not necessarily mean *same*. Gender-specific programs are not “women only” programs where male models are superimposed on women.**

- Therapeutic approaches must address issues such as physical, sexual and emotional abuse, family relationships, substance abuse, and co-occurring disorders.
- There needs to be understanding and agreement that *equal* does not necessarily mean *same*. Gender-specific programs are not “women only” programs where male models are superimposed on women.
- Whenever possible, each woman should be supervised in the least restrictive environment available. After treatment needs and public safety needs are considered, community-based settings should be expanded while reducing reliance on secure custody.
- Opportunities for skill building and competency development need to be included in programs.
- Treatment should be designed on women’s strengths rather than their deficiencies. Assets-based models should then be expanded to increase self reliance.
- Cultural and community resources should be marshaled from within the community, as community interaction with the criminal justice system will garner more community support.

Following the discussion of these guiding principles, Dr. Stephanie Covington, Co-Director of the Center for Gender and Justice, provided participants with examples of gender responsive therapeutic approaches.

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**Covington suggested viewing the world through the “lens of a woman” when developing services that make a difference and have the capacity to change and impact a woman offender’s life.**

Covington noted the “cultural conflict” that occurs when treatment programs are set within the criminal justice system, which is grounded in a culture of control. She explained that because treatment is fundamentally a culture of change, there are challenges posed by bringing the two systems together. Staff needs to acknowledge and understand these difficulties and continue to work together, she said.

Covington suggested viewing the world through the “lens of a woman” when developing services that make a difference and have the capacity to change and impact a woman offender’s life. If the lens of a criminal or the lens of an addict is used, a particular type of treatment service will result. The type of lens used is going to “flavor and direct” what kind of services are provided, she said.

Covington offered an illustration of a typical therapeutic community (TC) in a correctional setting. The TC teaches women that they, not the drugs, are the problem. The Twelve-Step meetings, interwoven with TC activities, tell the women that they have a disease and have to practice abstinence.

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**Covington believes many substance abuse treatment programs in correctional settings have no theory base and often provide contradictory, fragmented services. She called these “activity-driven schedules,” not treatment programs.**

In their relapse prevention program, the women are taught that addiction is learned behavior and can be unlearned. Covington asked, “Can anyone be expected to recover after receiving treatment based on these contradictory programming approaches?” She underscored the difference that theory makes, as it indicates what you think you are treating.

Covington highlighted a treatment program she developed, *Helping Women Recover*, in which three perspectives are woven together to create a theoretical framework. She believes many substance abuse treatment programs in correctional settings have no theory base and often provide contradictory, fragmented services. She called these “activity-driven schedules,” not treatment programs.

Covington described the three theoretical perspectives on which the *Helping Women Recover Program* is based: theory of addiction, relational theory and theory of trauma. She commented on each theory.

*Theory of addiction.* A medical model that views addiction as a disease that creates a craving, which disrupts cognitive, emotional and social behavior. However, Covington’s program uses the model broadly and holistically to encompass the psychological, spiritual, environmental and political aspects that impinge on addiction.

*Relational theory.* Women develop a sense of self in connection with others, and through the complexity and evolution of a relationship. Therefore, women’s relationship with drugs, their children, staff, relationships between staff and administration, and the way relationships are created throughout the program, are all important aspects of the recovery process.

*Theory of trauma.* Women who are trauma survivors often exhibit symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, and many are often considered major management issues in correctional settings. They can become re-traumatized by restraint, seclusion and by cavity searches.

What kind of approach should be used? Covington shared some research done by Susan Galbraith, who interviewed mothers who had been incarcerated but were now successfully living in the community.

Galbraith asked them about their children, experiences that hurt them and experiences that helped them. The mothers reported the following:

- Children were deeply affected by their mother’s incarceration and there were few resources to help them.
- The women felt intense shame and guilt about society’s labeling them as “bad” mothers, and these labels affected their children.

- The women who committed child-related crimes were particularly stigmatized.
- Reunification with children was the goal for most women.

They identified the following items as hurtful:

- Dehumanizing and harmful medical and psychiatric interventions, and the disruption of important medications.
- Unnecessary and arbitrary harassment, sexual harassment and abuse, use of force, restraint and isolation.
- Dehumanizing living conditions and processing by the criminal justice system.
- Language barriers, stigma, lack of support for re-entry into the community.

In talking about what helped to make them successfully transition in the community, the women reported the following:

- Relationships with people who cared, listened and could be trusted.
- Relationships with other women who were supportive role models.
- Proper assessment and classification, safe environments.
- Well trained staff, especially female staff.
- Proper medication.
- Programs—not just incarceration, but job training, education, substance abuse and mental health treatment and parenting.
- Inmate-centered programs, efforts to reduce trauma and re-victimization; alternatives to seclusion and restraint.

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**Covington urged the audience to ask the question “*what is the work*” rather than “*what works*.”**

Covington urged the audience to ask the question “*What is the work?*” rather than “*What works?*” with women in the criminal justice system. Bloom and Covington believe “the work” requires a four-pronged philosophy:

*Prevention.* When Bloom asked women offenders what could have made a difference in deterring their from entering the criminal justice system, they looked to prevention. The women suggested reducing “family fragmentation,” improving school performance, developing more pro-social peer groups, and dealing early on with substance abuse problems and abuse issues. The women also identified education, housing, family and parenting support, jobs, community based services, stability, adequate financial resources and role models as preventive measures to keep them from entering the criminal justice system in the first place.

*Do no harm.* Covington said that “doing no harm” would improve the system, where women often get traumatized and lose their dignity. For example, there are still jurisdictions that shackle women inmates during labor and delivery to

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**Barriers for women offenders are not only a problem for the criminal justice system, but for all systems that impact on the lives of women and children.**

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**Dickow noted managed care has undermined treatment in general, but especially gender responsive treatment.**

prevent women from escaping. Covington noted the procedure is not about security, but about punishment; and does great harm to the woman. She also pointed out that some women are being medicated as a form of controlling behavior, not because they are mentally ill. Covington stated that these harmful actions only compound existing problems.

*Be gender responsive.* Designing and developing gender responsive services that address specific women's needs must include a staff training component. There needs to be cross training between treatment staff and correctional staff. Covington and Bloom indicate that in the therapeutic communities in which they worked, correctional officers are trained along with the treatment team.

*Build community support.* In order for women to successfully transition into the community, the community needs to support them. They face competing mandates in terms of drug treatment, requirements from the child welfare system, and conditions of probation or parole that they must fulfill. They must also navigate a myriad of systems that provide them with services that are often fragmented. Barriers for women offenders are not only a problem for the criminal justice system, but for all systems that impact on the lives of women and children.

Bloom concluded the presentation by discussing ways of dealing with barriers to services for women and their children. She urged the audience to advocate for policy and program changes that make all the criminal justice and related systems more responsive to women, their children, and their families.

Serving as a local respondent, Alice Dickow, Director of the Saint Francis Women's Addiction Treatment Center of Hawai'i, noted that any program dealing with women must have trust, healing, and time. She said that time in a program is now considered a luxury. When length of time is seen as a luxury, treatment suffers, Dickow argued.

With regard to cognitive behavioral therapy, Dickow said it is not only easier to research, but also easier to deliver. Managed care has undermined treatment in general, but especially gender responsive treatment, she asserted. Dickow discussed how fiscal considerations and "the bottom line" prevent gender responsive treatment from being delivered. She commented that histories of trauma and abuse do not often seem like sufficient justification for treatment under managed care.

She spent some time discussing the importance of the group process, the importance of listening skills, and the context within which healing takes place. Healing experiences happen spontaneously in residential treatment and at the oddest times, in kitchens, in hallways, and other places, she said. Her experience has shown that healing does not necessarily occur in cognitive behavioral sessions.

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**Dickow argued that treatment encounters should not be viewed as a series of failures and relapses, but as an “opportunity to plant the seeds of recovery.”**

Dickow is concerned that service providers may be losing their listening skills, and that cognitive therapy reduces the degree to which people listen. She also noted it is crucial to understand the different stages of change a woman may be going through. It is important to be attuned to this because the treatment program she is in now may be only one step in a long series.

Viewed in this manner, each encounter with treatment becomes an opportunity. Dickow said, however, the tendency is to view each treatment encounter as a continued series of failures and relapses. She emphasized that staff working with women should see each treatment encounter as “an opportunity to plant the seeds of recovery.”

As the second local respondent, Lorraine Robinson, Director of TJ Mahoney and Associates, described her agency as a comprehensive transitional residential program for women returning to the community from prison. She said the research and concepts outlined at the symposium validate what she has seen as a practitioner.

Robinson stated that a woman’s time in prison should be used productively so that she can create a different and better life when she returns to the community. She argued that threatening women with re-incarceration does not work. If it did, the incarcerated population would not be increasing at the alarming rate that it is, she added.

She has talked to women in her program about what has been helpful to them. The women report that being in the community “works” because they learn by experiencing challenges in the community itself. Also, programs that are structured, predictable, consistent, and respectful are very helpful to their recovery. The women also underscored the importance of being in an environment that is conducive to safety, personal growth, and learning.

Robinson said that the way staff treats one another is critical, “far more important than structure and rules.” She said incarcerated females are “astute observers of the subtleties of relationships. They are entirely tuned in to what’s going on around them, whom they can trust, with whom they can talk, and how far they can go in their conversation.”

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**Robinson said women offenders need to learn that they have choices, and that they have the power to make responsible decisions.**

She emphasized the importance of empowering women. “It’s not about telling women they are powerless. These women know they are powerless. Powerlessness is not the way to help women make changes; they need to feel they have some control over their lives and the power to make choices. What they really need to learn is that they have choices, and that they have the power to make responsible decisions.”

Robinson closed by highlighting the responsibility of symposium participants to effect change, to apply the information presented and to collaborate with one another to initiate systemic and lasting improvements.

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**Covington asserted that women offenders first need someone to hear their story, an informed witness, and not necessarily someone with special credentials.**

Questions from the audience followed. In response to a question about caseloads in therapeutic communities, Covington responded that the counselor to client ratio in a therapeutic community should be one to 15. Asked when it is appropriate to deal with women's trauma, Covington commented that there is an erroneous belief that only certain types of specifically trained staff can deal with trauma. Covington said the reality is that women first need someone to hear their story, an informed witness, and not necessarily someone with special credentials.

Bloom responded to questions about staff training and strategies to prevent staff burnout. She said that staff has to develop relationships with staff in other systems. They need a method of communication across systems, since corrections staff often work in isolation, which increases the chance of burnout.

Covington remarked that people working in the criminal justice system share the same issues as women in the system. She noted that staff members who have experienced domestic violence, sexual abuse, other trauma or similar situations might not have had the chance to do their own healing work. So when they work with women who have even more horrific life stories, it touches their own issues. Robinson added that it is crucial for staff to work on their own self-esteem issues and have the courage to develop their own sense of self.

## Topical Workshop: Holistic Healing from Domestic Abuse

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Laura Crites, Director  
Hawai‘i Women’s Business Center, Honolulu, HI

Pamela Bond, Volunteer, Ho‘omana Therapeutic Community  
Women’s Community Correctional Center, Kailua, HI

Laura Crites, the author of a domestic abuse healing curriculum for women offenders and one of the developers of the first therapeutic community (TC) at the Women’s Community Correctional Center advocates the incorporation of holistic principles with domestic violence treatment programs.

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**Crites explained that a holistic healing environment treats the body, mind, spirit and heart.**

Crites explained that the holistic approach would provide a more comprehensive way to treat all aspects of the self: the body, mind, spirit and heart. She believes that this would give women offenders a method of healing from their psycho-spiritual wounds, as well as the more obvious emotional and psychological damage. The process, Crites said, leads to self-awareness and self-acceptance, which in turn could effect increased wisdom, compassion and the capacity to love.

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**Therapeutic communities need elements that define and support the healing process.**

Pamela Bond described the elements in a TC that help to define and support the healing process. She emphasized TCs need to be safe places for women to openly express their pain with staff who are capable of helping them heal from their wounds. Bond relayed other TC activities such as the use of rituals and metaphors in the communication process to convey meaning; music and shared stories to help illustrate lessons to be learned; and writing, drawing, relaxation and breathing exercises to help women “reach their spirit and achieve transformation.”

Crites and Bond expressed a vision of a holistic healing environment from domestic abuse that includes:

- Language that is not shame-based, but respectful;
- Trained staff who are engaged in their own healing work as well;
- A safe physical environment that facilitates emotional healing and brings out beauty;
- Creativity that is stressed through activities, music, and artistic impressions;
- Connections to the larger community, which includes volunteers to teach women new trades and job skills; and
- An emphasis on reconnection with their families.

## Topical Workshop: From Prison to Paycheck

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Moderator: Maureen Tito, Education Services Manager  
Hawai'i Department of Public Safety, Honolulu, HI

Panelists: Marylou Clizbe, President and Executive Director  
Insights to Success, Honolulu, HI

Myra Hager, Co-President, Director of Operations  
Insights to Success, Honolulu, HI

Clarice Cornett, Director, Building Women Program  
and Owner, Wahine Builders, Honolulu, HI

Gary Wiseman, Executive Director  
Associated Builders and Contractors  
Hawai'i Chapter, Honolulu, HI

Moderator Maureen Tito conducted the session in the format of a town hall meeting. She began by making a statement and then inviting members of the panel and the audience to join in a discussion. As the workshop continued, new topics arose and were discussed. A summary of the discussion follows.

*Statement: Many feel that the key to employment for the female offender is to raise her self-esteem. The idea is that if we "clean her up" she will feel better about herself and would therefore be better suited for work.*

Clarice Cornett, who started a pre-apprentice program designed to help women enter the construction field, stated that the five apprentices who work for her built their self-esteem as they worked. They built a house from the ground up. Cornett stated that the knowledge tied in with such work also contributed to their heightened self-esteem.

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**Hager expressed concern that simply focusing on job placement for offenders contributes to short-term employment.**

Myra Hager expressed concern that simply focusing on job placement for offenders contributes to short-term employment. Her agency provides vocational rehabilitation services, but also considers a woman's problem solving skills, evaluates her level of happiness at her work place and helps with other life skills such as creating back-up childcare plans. Hager asserted that self-esteem would grow and develop in programs that integrate work and family life.

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**Wiseman said helping offenders build positive relationships with people in the workplace is important.**

*Statement: If women earned a lot of money, they would not go back to the streets. As long as a woman earns a lot of money, she would be set.*

Marylou Clizbe stated that money does not buy happiness. She teaches her clients to build “safety nets” such as knowing how to save money and having back-up childcare plans. She said when something stressful happens in an offender’s life, she is likely to panic and revert to her old behavior. Therefore, Clizbe emphasized helping women offenders to think differently about themselves is necessary in order for them to be successful. She also said encouraging these women to check in even when things are going well helps them to know that someone cares.

Gary Wiseman added that a paycheck is not the only item of importance. The relationships within the workplace are important as well. He spoke of the need to help offenders build positive relationships with people at work.

A parole officer from the audience stressed the need to work harder with the women on parole, especially in the first 30 days because the chance of failure is high at that time.

*Statement: Work and substance abuse issues should be addressed before spending a lot of money on employment and training.*

Cornett said that apprentices in her program were concurrently taking substance abuse classes, but she stressed to them the need to be clean and sober. She commented that there are incentives for her workers to stay clean because they are helping others by building homes for Habitat for Humanity; they are learning valuable skills such as math and electrician work; and they have pride in their craftsmanship.

Clizbe opined that while treatment within the correctional facility helps, educating employers about substance abuse is important, too. She noted that the bottom line at her agency is women must remain healthy and drug free to stay in her program. She tells clients that being clean and sober helps them make better choices and perform well in their jobs.

*Topic: Intersection of stress and work*

The chairman of the Hawai‘i Paroling Authority, added that stress, such as the loss of a job, income, or relationship problems, cause many offenders to return to drug use. He asked how to go about helping offenders to become “mentally tough” so that they are able to deal with constant denial of employment. He asked, “How do we keep them going?”

Hager suggested doing a pre-interview as a method to enhance success, then continuing to stress the need for them to maintain their regimes of parole and treatment programs. Her agency reviews employment history and focuses on the types of jobs that the offender enjoyed most and gave her the least stress. Clizbe explained the entire effort is oriented toward getting jobs “that make sense for them.” Counseling is oriented toward forcing them to look at what caused them problems and stress. By teaching them survival skills in addition to getting jobs, she helps them to keep the jobs they get. Clizbe said they need more than mere help with filling out job applications.

*Topic: Referral to services*

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**Although sentenced felons need employment to get and maintain parole, sentenced misdemeanants also need services.**

Tito stated that her transition program focuses primarily on sentenced felons because they need employment to get and maintain parole. However, sentenced misdemeanants also need services, she added. She would like the Department of Labor to get involved with the lives of offenders with shorter sentences. She said the Department of Public Safety is unable to because they do not have the offender for a sufficient period of time. She is working on developing a referral program to present to the Department of Labor.

Clizbe said it is best to refer the women to the Department of Human Services Welfare to Work Program where they will be referred to some type of service because of their employment status and their need. In addition, if they are receiving any type of service, they will be put at the top of the referral list for her program and for other programs as well. She believes employment agents need to get together more so that those who need the services know what types of services are available.

Delegates noted that an offender’s failure on probation and parole is partly attributed to a lack of programs that address all of the client’s needs.

*Topic: Availability of funding*

Clizbe stated that they are there to help, but that funding is a problem. Individual services are difficult because caseloads are too high.

A parole officer in the audience added that on the island of Maui, all parole violations from January through October 2000 were for use of crystal methamphetamine. He commented that this drug often takes precedence over the parolee’s work life. This prompted another delegate to ask who, ideally, should be responsible for childcare, substance abuse treatment, transportation, and related services.

Cornett said that if her company had not done things like calling the warden, letting her workers call their children, helping them with details such as getting

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**It is typical for inmates to wait six months prior to their release date before being enrolled in substance abuse programs.**

drivers' licenses, they would not get assistance with those services from anyone. Cornett further added that "it is amazing what helping out with the little things will do." She stated that it takes a lot of people to give one-on-one attention.

Wiseman added that very few employers will do the little extra things "because of the economics." However, he noted that as employers start to realize that doing more for their employees make sense economically, the more they will feel a responsibility for doing so.

Clizbe noted that there has been more segmenting of responsibilities in areas such as employment and social services. However, we are a community and should share responsibility with each other and work collaboratively, she said. Hager added that she would like to see more involvement in substance abuse programs right after incarceration. She said it is typical for inmates to wait six months prior to their release date before being enrolled in .

A delegate stated that 80 to 90% of people in prison are there because of drug-related offenses, and that there is not enough money in prison to provide treatment for all of them. Therefore, some must be treated in the community. Another delegate commented that there is a single 15-bed therapeutic community at Women's Community Correctional Center. She said this is a great program that should be expanded, but asked where the money come from, she asked.

Another delegate stated that a transition house helps to deal with all of the issues, such as substance abuse, jobs, programs, and employment. However, there are only eight beds in the transition house, even though these services cost less than incarceration. Successful programs that are working need to get more funding from the Legislature, she said.

Cornett added that starting her program was expensive and funding was a problem. She is working with the warden to allow for-profit work on community projects. Training projects could be transitional projects for women. This would provide training for the women and allow the program to get money back at market value. This would be a way to help fund the program, she concluded.

It was suggested that people write to their legislators to mandate money for treatment. A delegate added that the real work lies in getting the criminal justice system to invest in treatment rather than incarceration.

Another delegate stated that work-referral programs, prior to release, work better here than straight releases from prison because it increases success rates. He said the biggest test for the criminal justice system is how well offenders do after their release from prison.

## Topical Workshop: Caring for the Children

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Moderator: Katherine Gabel, MSW, JD, PhD  
Western Regional Leader  
Casey Family Programs, Pasadena, CA

Panelists: Celeste (offender) and her daughter

Chianti (ex-offender) and her daughter

Beverly Nakamoto, Supervisor, Child Protective Services  
Hawaii Department of Human Services, Honolulu, HI

Moderated by Katherine Gabel, a former warden of a youth correctional facility, this panel examined the impact of incarceration on women, children and families. After introductions, the two mothers and daughters shared their families' experiences before, during, and after the mothers' incarceration.

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**Despite her enrollment in various treatment programs, Celeste relapsed several times; each episode being worse than the one prior.**

Celeste explained that she grew up in a middle-class family, but felt isolated and introverted. She began using heroin at the age of 17 and discovered that drugs allowed her to "feel like a part of the group." She struggled with co-dependency issues and when things "went bad," she and her husband divorced. Despite her enrollment in various treatment programs, she relapsed several times; each episode being worse than the one prior. She entered the Castle Hospital treatment program with some success but then hit rock bottom. She had been prostituting, shoplifting and living on the streets.

After being arrested, Celeste participated in the Hawai'i Drug Court Program. As part of Drug Court, she was sent to the Salvation Army treatment program, where she learned how her co-dependency deeply impacted her life. She worked on her cognitive difficulties and on changing old patterns of thinking. She graduated from the Drug Court Program after 17 months. When her relationship with her boyfriend failed, she began using drugs again. She went back to living on the streets for nearly two years before being arrested again and was finally incarcerated.

Celeste recalled the painful reality of being separated from her children, heightened by occasional furloughs for holidays. She has managed to remain close to her daughter, despite the ups and downs of their relationship. She currently participates in a therapeutic community at T.J. Mahoney, a residential transitional facility.

Celeste's daughter recalled many separations from her mother while she was growing up, during which time she and her brother were in the custody of their grandmother. Although their father visited on weekends, "We often took care of ourselves," she recalled. By the time she and her brother were in high school, they were discouraged and ready to give up on their mother. They are grateful that Celeste is doing well at present.

Celeste's daughter expressed the hope that her mother can get through this difficult period. She said her mother is a strong person and that they support her recovery efforts. Recently, her brother and her mother talked for the first time after a year of separation without any communication. Her brother had initially responded to her mother's incarceration by isolating himself because the situation was very painful for him. She expressed her pride in her brother for pulling through academically and for doing well in the Navy, where he has a promising career.

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**Chianti developed a negative attitude around the age of 15, despite having what she called a "strong childhood."**

Chianti grew up in a single-parent household and remembers that her mother was very strict. Chianti developed a negative attitude around the age of 15, despite having what she called a "strong childhood." She experienced both sexual abuse and domestic violence. She was date-raped as an adolescent and believed it was her fault. She kept the child that resulted and was living on welfare. When her boyfriend found out about the rape, he tried to kill her and attacked her child. She then experienced a period of intense drug addiction, which eventually resulted in her incarceration. While in prison, she entered a therapeutic community program where she addressed her addiction and abuse. She was discharged from parole in 1998.

Chianti's daughter is nearly 13 years old and was adopted by and lived with her maternal grandmother when she was four. She is in the eighth grade and enjoys going to the beach and the mall, but she struggles with emotional issues surrounding her mother's addiction and incarceration.

Child Protective Services (CPS) social worker Beverly Nakamoto discussed the often-problematic interface between CPS and the Department of Public Safety, stressing the need for more cooperation between the two systems. She works predominantly with local and Native Hawaiian communities and has had many cases with mothers incarcerated at WCCC.

She mentioned the difficulties that arise from working with families within a correctional setting, explaining that CPS activities are constrained by correctional facility rules. For example, visiting policies make the maintenance of family bonds difficult, she said.

Nakamoto believes the current policy of allowing mothers and their new infants only one visit a week is thoroughly inadequate and is far below the time needed

for mothers and infants to bond. She recommended that families have at least three visits a week, with two of the visits lasting two hours each. She would like to make it possible for women offenders to visit with their children at a child-friendly setting at the Department of Human Services' visiting room at their Waiakamilo office. She finds the physical setting of family visits in prison is not conducive to positive family interactions.

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**Nakamoto discussed the use of cultural practices such as *ho'oponopono*, a traditional Native Hawaiian ritual utilized to heal family rifts.**

Nakamoto discussed the use of cultural practices to deal with problems arising from maternal incarceration. *Ho'oponopono*, a traditional Hawaiian ritual utilized to heal family rifts, is used in these largely rural communities when working with offenders and their families. She highlighted the 'Ohana Conferencing Project and its success in marshaling resources from the extended family and community to help the nuclear family. 'Ohana Conferencing was able to occur on site at WCCC, thus avoiding family court and CPS involvement. She noted that more projects of this nature could be done in prison, given appropriate support.

Nakamoto stated that there are other ways in which CPS and the Department of Public Safety can work more closely. For instance, the two could cooperate in addressing mental health and medical issues for an incarcerated mother with children under CPS protection. In such a case, CPS could arrange a psychological evaluation and, if she is dually diagnosed and needs medication, CPS could assist with getting services in the community, as current restrictions prohibit CPS from taking the incarcerated mother from prison.

Nakamoto also noted the difficulties posed by staff shortages among prison social workers. At present, the lack of prison social workers is another impediment in CPS' efforts to work with women and children, she said.

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**Celeste's daughter urged families to keep the lines of communication open, to work at reconnection through letters if visits and phone calls are not feasible, and to not break family ties, if at all possible.**

Moderator Gabel facilitated a lively discussion between panel members and symposium participants which focused on additional issues and problems of raising a child from behind bars. The timing and advisability of reunification needs to take into consideration the feelings of all family members and professional assessment. Staff needs to recognize that sometimes both mothers and children need the emotional space and separation to work things out, as their healing processes may not always coincide.

Celeste's daughter urged families to keep the lines of communication open, to work at reconnection through letters if visits and phone calls are not feasible, and to not break family ties, if at all possible.

## Luncheon Keynote Address: Interrupting the Cycle of Offending

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Denise Johnston, M.D.  
Director, Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents  
Eagle Rock, CA

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**Johnston argued that a childhood-focused perspective shows criminality is not a pathology, but a natural product of “disrupted” development.**

Dr. Denise Johnston asserted that theoretical discussions about women offenders have to some extent pathologized them. She noted that use of the historical perspective has isolated offenders by defining them in terms of deficits and disorders. Instead of this traditional view, Johnston argued for a childhood-focused perspective that shows criminality is not a pathology, but a natural product of “disrupted” development. As an alternative, she offered a means of viewing offenders through a different theoretical framework: a developmental perspective.

Johnston said that virtually all criminal offenders have had powerful disruptions during childhood, where almost all serious offending begins. She explained that by middle childhood or adolescence, all of the four major behavior patterns that lead to incarceration have begun: drug use, violence/aggression, theft and sexual misconduct. Substance abuse related problems accompany a child’s growing access to alcohol and drugs as he or she ages, Johnston added.

She compared development—defined as the acquisition of skills through integration of experience—to a cake. Some people have “good ingredients” such as love, attention, parental care. Others have “bad ingredients” such as trauma, abuse, and witnessing or suffering violence. Viewed in this manner the resulting product is normal given what has been “put into the mix.”

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**Thus, offenders who have had “bad ingredients in their lives” should not be thought of as disordered, but as a logical product of their traumatic experiences and disrupted development.**

Development simply reflects experience, Johnston asserted. Thus, offenders who have had “bad ingredients in their lives” should not be thought of as disordered, but as a logical product of their traumatic experiences and disrupted development.

Johnston said one of the most critical stages in development is attachment, the ability to form a reciprocal, enduring, emotional and physical bond with another person. Infants learn to love and trust during numerous cycles of attachment seeking. When a child is hurt, not protected, or experiences trauma, the “attachment contract” between the child and the parent is upset. Johnston noted the disruption results in lack of trust, inability to regulate emotions, hyperactivity, numbness, hypervigilance and attention/concentration deficits.

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**Johnston proposed that if development responds to experience, then developmental pathways to criminality can be changed.**

However, Johnston proposed that if development responds to experience, then developmental pathways to criminality can be changed. She noted that interventions must be offered in the context of sustained, reliable, supportive and caring relationships in order to be successful.

She provided examples of relevant developmental interventions. Among them is a residential, mother-child correctional program offered in a long-range setting that includes substance abuse and mental health treatment, along with linkages to educational and vocational services for mothers. The program features supportive services for children, followed by extended aftercare.

Johnston pointed to a therapeutic intervention project modality implemented at her agency, the Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents. Set within schools or community sites, it offers therapeutic services with individual, group and family therapy, and behavioral skills training. Support services include case management and parent-child visitations. Caregiver/teacher support groups are also available. Various types of educational support services for parents, caregivers, and teachers are offered.

At the Center for Incarcerated Parents, their Attachment Project offers parent empowerment courses for mothers, along with psychotherapy, which guide attachment-building activities for the mother-child dyad. Johnston also talked about relationship-based interventions such as intensive mentoring projects that provide a sustained relationship between an adolescent or child and a caring, consistent adult.

Johnston noted the developmental perspective and the modalities she presented are framed by the importance of childhood and children. In contrast, the development theory reveals the ineffectiveness of hurtful and negative experiences such as incarceration. Furthermore, Johnston said, because the developmental process never ends, the theory acknowledges that we can all change. She suggested the development theory could serve as a foundation to paint a picture of a different future, particularly for the futures of women offenders' children.

## Paint a Picture of a Different Future: Conclusion and Team Action Plans

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Emma Pavich, MSW, ASCW, LSW  
Trainer and Consultant, Honolulu, HI

Valerie Mariano, Chief, Community & Crime Prevention Branch  
Hawai'i Department of the Attorney General, Honolulu, HI

A secondary, but by no means less important, theme of the Symposium has been the potential for the decision-makers present to forge connections and network with one another to improve the situations of women offenders. Emma Pavich pointed in particular to the commitment by the Department of Public Safety to work cooperatively with Child Protective Services to improve the frequency and conditions of visitations for women and their children.

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**Delegates were asked to consider gaps in the process flow...and to think about what could be done to mitigate or fix those deficiencies.**

Valerie Mariano encouraged the delegates to consider what they needed to do to make their programs work better and to offer one another support for improving these efforts. Recalling a group exercise conducted on Thursday of the symposium, *What Happens When a Woman is Arrested*, Mariano asked delegates to consider the gaps in the process flow identified during the group exercise, and to think about what could be done to mitigate or fix those deficiencies.

Pavich then asked each participant to consider their aspirations and dreams to improve the lives of women offenders. She posed the question, "What would you like to see happen now in your agency that would really make a difference for women offenders?" Delegates presented their ideas to their team and to the audience as a whole. Pavich then asked the delegates to go back to their teams and identify sources of support and determine individuals who could help make their dreams a reality.

Following these team discussions, the groups shared their Team Dreams. One team volunteered that they wanted to see community-based treatment programming for women with one year left to serve in prison. The delegate who made the proposal noted that she would like to see an expansion of services on the Big Island and on other neighbor islands.

She called attention to a point raised earlier in the symposium about managed care's reluctance to pay for residential substance abuse treatment for women coming out of prison. She received several responses from teammates, including one suggesting that the Legislature be approached during next biennium budget.

Another delegate wanted a residential transitional facility for inmates from the island of Kauai, where residents could receive holistic treatment. When incarcerated women face the parole board, they are required to get treatment, but cannot fulfill this requirement because Kauai Community Correctional Center lacks a certified substance abuse treatment program. Therefore, women who seek treatment must attempt to get into the women's prison on Oahu. The participant remarked that while there was support for her idea among her teammates, no one had a specific suggestion.

The Director of the Department of Health (DOH), responded that the DOH has proposed \$4 million in their budget for substance abuse treatment for offenders in the criminal justice system. Perhaps, he suggested, this funding might be a solution to the issue on Kauai.

Another participant shared her three dreams: a mentoring program for Kauai's women inmates; *ho'oponopono* and family conferencing for inmates and their families; and more therapists available who can focus on these approaches to treatment. She received support for these dreams from her teammates. She added that she plans to begin working on the mentoring program on Kauai. A second member of the team asked for community volunteers to come into the Kauai Community Correctional Center to work with women offenders.

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**Each team then identified the top three items with the best chance of success requiring the fewest resources.**

Pavich introduced the second exercise, one intended to focus the momentum of ideas and energies into action plans. This exercise called on each team to identify and address gaps in services for women offenders, especially ones that could be done right away and would not cost large amounts of money. Each team was to name the top three issues with the best chance of success requiring the fewest resources. The top priority would become that team's first action item for female offenders.

The teams then shared their priorities and identified their first action item. The top priority action item for each of the 10 teams are:

### **Casey Family Programs**

- Develop and implement tools to assist Casey youth in managing the impact of parental offenders.

### **First Judicial Circuit - City & County of Honolulu**

- Create and implement a new association and communication policy allowing inmates to provide support for each other during and after treatment.
- Develop a coordinated case management pilot program involving probation, corrections and parole which includes substance abuse treatment with the goal of reducing recidivism.

- Change all mandatory sentencing laws relating to drugs by resurrecting and lobbying for passage of such a bill defeated during the past legislative session.
- Establish an advocacy coalition. Develop a plan for creating a child-friendly visitation site for parent/child visitations at WCCC.

### **Second Judicial Circuit - Maui County**

- Form a single countywide team to identify resources and share information.
- Facilitate the flow of information regarding available services for female offenders by conducting a Service Providers Fair.

### **Third Judicial Circuit - Hawaii County**

- Conduct a one-day conference on women offenders on the Big Island, which includes more community agencies and the community at large.
- Create a central coordinating organization to provide social services for women offenders and their families.

(There is no Fourth Judicial Circuit)

### **Fifth Judicial Circuit - Kauai County**

- Create a mentoring program for female inmates. Utilize ho‘oponopono and ‘ohana conferencing for inmates and their families.
- Create an internet-based data resource information center on women offenders.

The “dream teams” each completed an action plan worksheet detailing their activities, along with a contact sheet, team resources worksheets, and a team collaboration sheet, thus setting the stage for implementation of their plan.

## **Group Activities and Participatory Exercises**

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The symposium planners were intent on accomplishing three goals:

- Provide as much information as possible about women offenders;
- Give the invitees every opportunity to share experiences, thoughts, feelings and ideas; and
- Create an environment conducive for collaboration among and between participants resulting in concrete plans of action.

To this end, various teaching and presentation models were employed, including an innovative experiential exercise using “passports.” Responses to the presentation methods were overwhelmingly positive.

### **Who Cares About Being a Millionaire?**

Presented by Allicyn Hikida Tasaka

Following the format of the popular television game show “Who Wants to be a Millionaire” and using the magic of Power Point, Deputy Public Defender Susan “Regis” Arnett emceed the symposium’s first participatory activity. Delegate teams answered two rounds of questions. The first round contained three trivia-type questions for each team. The second round offered two questions pertaining to topics germane to the symposium. Teams had to answer questions correctly in order to advance to the next question. Two “lifelines” were available to each team: ask-the-audience and ask-a-friend (a specific member of the audience). Token prizes were awarded as teams progressed through the questions. The activity allowed participants to get to know each other while working towards a common goal, and provided information about women offenders and related subjects.

### **What Happens When a Women Gets Arrested?**

Presented by Jo Kamae Byrne and Emma Pavich

Grouped by jurisdiction, delegates worked together to produce flow charts illustrating what happens to a woman and her children when an arrest is made in their respective communities. This activity enabled participants to share what each person knew about a woman offender’s contacts with the criminal justice system. The exercise also revealed gaps in information and services, and identified intervention possibilities. Delegates quickly discovered that comprehensive “connecting points” are lacking with social service agencies, particularly those that could potentially address issues of mental health and substance abuse. Many gaps were noted, particularly with regard to necessary child welfare services. Through this exercise, participants examined ways in which criminal justice organizations and community agencies could work together to address systemic issues, improve communication across systems and streamline processes.

## **Through the Looking Glass...Yesterday's Child**

Presented by Roxanne Aburamen, Riki Amano, Kathleen Chase and Boni Grimm

This unique activity was modeled after the Smithsonian Institute's Holocaust Museum. Upon entry to the Smithsonian museum, visitors are given a passport to assume the identity of a Holocaust victim and led through four floors of exhibits following a storyline related to that person. Similarly, symposium delegates in groups of 8 to 10, were assigned passports to become "actors" in a three-scene play that depicts the life of a female offender from elementary school to felony sentencing.

In Scene One, eight-year old "Sandy" is being considered for the solo part in her school's Christmas play and her music teacher is visiting her family to discuss support for this project. The teacher finds the home chaotic and family dysfunctional. After the scene, assigned delegate-observers (indicated in their passports) and the "actors" processed the scene. Many responded with pessimism about Sandy's family circumstances and her future.

Scene Two was set in two places: first, behind the school gym where Sandy is smoking marijuana before class; and second, in the counselor's office where she discloses problems at home, including sex abuse. After-the-scene comments from the actor/observer-delegates continued to reflect a grim prognosis for Sandy.

The play was suspended for delegates to experience Dr. Wayne Duehn's "Secrets" exercise and to hear speakers presentation on "Women's Pathways to Criminality" and "Women Offenders and Their Children." Thereafter, Scene Three was played out by the participants. Set in a courtroom, 28-year old Sandy, a mother of several children, is awaiting re-sentencing for her second probation violation. Delegates played the roles of judges, prosecutors, defense counsels, substance abuse counselors, probation officers, Sandy, her boyfriend, her mother and her son or daughter. Feedback from the participants showed that the "judges" made different sentencing decisions. Some sent Sandy to prison while others gave her another chance at probation.

Viewing different dimensions of a woman offender's pathway to criminality through this exercise served as a catalyst for a healthy discussion by delegates. Many philosophies, thoughts, and frustration about criminal sentencing were expressed.

## **Secrets**

Presented by Dr. Wayne Duehn

In this exercise, participants were asked to disclose sensitive sexual secrets about themselves. The timing of the activity coincided with Scene Two of the "Through the Looking Glass...Yesterday's Child" play, in which Sandy reveals her sexual abuse. Unlike Sandy, the delegates' secrets were sealed by them individually in envelopes. Tight guidelines and rules were in force as participants were instructed to give their envelopes to another delegate. In a controlled environment, participants were polled about their feelings, fears and thoughts after the "secrets" were given to someone else.

Taking the insights to another level while continuing to process the exercise, Dr. Duehn helped the delegates draw parallels between their reactions and Sandy's experiences. It was evident that the discomfort, mistrust and caution expressed by the participants were similar to that experienced by almost all victims of sexual abuse after disclosure. Duehn explained that it is typical for victims' school performance to suffer as children seek ways to escape the pain through substance abuse, eating disorders, depression or acting out. He likened the "secrets" envelopes to "case records" that result from a child's disclosure of sexual abuse.

After allowing everyone to retrieve their "secrets," Dr. Duehn noted the differences between the participants' experiences through the exercise and those experiences that would befall Sandy after she told her "secret." Police, social workers, lawyers, judges, therapists and family members would become privy to Sandy's secret and case record.

The activity gave participants a deeper understanding of some of the dynamics of sexual abuse and its impact on children. It underscored the need for everyone involved with these victims to establish an environment of trust, sensitivity and safety.

## **The Light Keeps Shining**

Presented by Pamela Bond, Jo Kamae Byrne, Chianti "Serena" Camara and Mary Scott-Lau

The design of this activity was to allow participants to reflect on the spiritual dimension of a woman offender's experiences beginning in childhood. In large circles of about twenty people each, delegates sat in a darkened conference room around a lighted lamp. Negative statements that might have been made by family members, peers, and the community in general were read by a moderator. The messages ranged from "You don't know anything, you're just a girl" to "I'm sending you to prison to teach you a lesson." As each statement was read, participants one by one, covered the lamp with a scarf until the light was almost completely darkened.

The process was reversed as positive messages were read. The statements included "You're special because you're a girl" and "You can be anything you want to become." As each scarf was removed with each positive statement, the room became dramatically brightened, representing the growth of a person's spirit in an affirmative environment. Delegates then shared their thoughts and feelings about the experience, which helped to further enhance the insights gained from this exercise.

## **APPENDICES**

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### **Selected Symposium Materials:**

- “Women in the Criminal Justice System: A Gender Responsive Approach,” Barbara Bloom, Ph.D. and Stephanie Covington, Ph.D., November 2000.
- Profile of Hawaii’s Female Probationer, Adult Probation Division, State of Hawai‘i Judiciary, 2000.
- Fact Sheet on Hawaii’s Incarcerated Women, Hawai‘i Department of Public Safety, 2000.
- Statistics on Hawaii’s Parolee Population, Hawai‘i Paroling Authority, 2000.
- “Like mother, like daughter? Why more young women follow their moms into lives of crime,” Toni Locy, U.S. News and World Report, October 4, 1999.

### **Presenters Biographies**

### **Symposium Agenda**

## WOMEN OFFENDERS IN HAWAII

- Hawaii's female inmate population has risen significantly.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Female Inmates</u>
1980	30
1985	109
1990	172
1995	257
2000	542

- Profile of Hawaii's female offender:
  - A woman of color, Hawaiian/part Hawaiian (40%)
  - Between the ages of 21 and 39
  - Has at least one child (60%)
  - Serving an average length of stay of 2 years, 2 months
  - Has a history of mental health problems (33%)
  - Reports childhood physical and sexual victimization (60%)
  - Reports some violence in her life (80%)
  - Prison record reflects no misconducts/moderate category misconducts in the last 6 months of incarceration (76%)
- Women of Hawaiian and part-Hawaiian descent constitute the largest proportion of women in prison, 40 percent, followed by Caucasian women at 29 percent.
- 85% of all criminal offenders need substance abuse treatment. Female inmates needing substance abuse treatment is higher, at 95%.
- 30% of female felons are housed in a facility in Oklahoma. The average daily population of female inmates by facility as of 10/30/00:

<u>Facility</u>	<u>No. of Female Inmates</u>
Women's CCC	263
Maui CCC	48
Oahu CCC	78
Hawaii CCC	19
Kauai CCC	18
Central Oklahoma CF	<u>79</u>
Total Inmate Count:	505

- In 1997, Hawai'i had the largest proportion of females in the prison population (10.2%) while the national average was 6.4 percent.

Source: Department of Public Safety, 2000

## Like mother, like daughter?

Why more young women follow their moms into lives of crime

By Toni Locy

Anita Wallace was boasting. About how much she loves getting high, how much she loves stealing. She can't remember how many times she has been busted, she says. There have been so many. But her bravado vanishes as fast as a hit of the heroin she loves so much. Holding her pencil-thin arms close to her sides, she listens, for maybe the first time, as her daughter, Starr, tells how her mother made so many promises—then broke every single one. “Everybody else had their mom,” says Starr, 18. “I know what it’s like not to have my mom for a significant part of my life. I didn’t know who to turn to, so I turned to myself.”

From age 11, after her mother disappeared on a drug binge or got thrown in jail, Starr got the job of caring for her sister and younger brothers. She rebelled. Before too long, the good girl, as she called herself, went bad. She started drinking, stopped going to school. She went out with gang members. She robbed a guy delivering pizzas. Much as she despised her mother’s lifestyle, Starr was following headlong in her footsteps. And like her mom, in the end, she was locked up, too.

Women have been going to jail for just about as long as there have been jails, but their numbers have always been far smaller than those of male inmates. That’s still the case. Today there are about 83,000 women behind bars—about 6 percent of the nation’s 1.2 million prisoners. But something new is going on—something frightening. Women today are being jailed at a rate much faster than men. Between 1986 and 1991, the incarceration rate for drug offenses for black women increased nearly twice as fast as for black men—828 percent over 429 percent. For women, generally, the incarceration rate jumped 516 percent between 1980 and 1998. There are reasons for that. Women who work in low-level roles in drug organizations are more likely to get caught by police and less likely to be able to cut deals with prosecutors.

But there’s more to it than that. It has long been known that sons of criminal fathers often follow them to jail. Now, police and prosecutors are seeing the trend increasingly replicated among women. Women like Anita and Starr Wallace. To explore this trend, U.S. News polled juvenile-justice agencies nationwide. Twenty-one states responded. Of the 10 that provided data on boys and girls, all but one reported that more girls proportionately than boys had mothers who had been previously arrested. One state, Iowa, reported that 64 percent of its female juvenile delinquents said their mothers had criminal records. While it is still a rarity, more mothers and daughters are being locked up at the same time, for the exact same crimes.

**Ties that bind.** The U.S. News survey, the first of its kind, startled some experts. “Initially, I was surprised,” said Meda Chesney-Lind of the University of Hawaii, one of the country’s leading researchers on girls and crime. “There’s no data on this issue. What you have done is illustrate that the damage done to girls is arguably more traumatic than it is for their brothers in having their mother incarcerated.”

Why this may be so isn't clear. Welfare dependency, for instance, is known to have jumped from one generation to the next. A similar phenomenon may now be occurring among women who commit crimes, but the available data are insufficient to say so with certainty. What is clear is that the emotional ties between mothers and daughters are so strong that they are less likely to be broken than those of the opposite sex by abuse, absenteeism, or criminality. "The mother-daughter bond is so strong, so visceral, it can't really be explained just intellectually," says Evelyn Bassoff, a Boulder, Colo., psychologist who has written extensively on the subject. The connection between mothers and daughters is stronger than with sons, Bassoff says, because boys must break away from their mothers to become men. "But for a girl, there's never that break," Bassoff adds. "Her mother is her identity."

Even if that identity is one of a criminal or a drug user. The profiles of a typical adult female offender and a female juvenile delinquent are strikingly similar. Both are poorly educated, live in poverty, and make dismal choices in men. Both have been physically and sexually abused. Both have problems with drugs and alcohol, which they often use to medicate the pain of what has been done to them. History is repeating itself—only faster. The girls seem to be trying drugs and having babies at younger ages, with generations separated by as few as 13 or 14 years.

Some factors can be cited with reasonable certainty. A major culprit is crack. It didn't just make addicts of women; it made them criminals. Many women landed behind bars for selling or possessing the drug. But others got locked up for forgery, shoplifting, and prostitution while trying to make money to buy it. Justice Department studies say most crack orphans went to live with their grandmothers, aunts, or other female relatives when their mothers got locked up. Some went to live with their fathers, while the rest were placed in foster care. No one knows how many girls saw their lives so disrupted.

What is clear is that by the time a mother goes off to jail, her children's lives have already been turned inside out. In interviews with 30 mothers who are or have recently been incarcerated, and with 20 daughters, the pattern emerged again and again. Karen Denise Faulkner is one of the mothers. The 39-year-old from Amarillo, Texas, had it all: the kids, the husband, the house with the two-car garage. But at night, as her children slept, she slipped away, got into her car, and went to score crack. She'd stay up all night, getting high. When morning came, she'd hop back into bed to make her kids believe she'd been there all along.

Even when aberrant behavior is far more obvious, the ties between mother and daughter somehow manage to endure. Beverly Hamilton and her daughter, Esther Shawn, were incarcerated together at Minnesota's prison for women in Shakopee after they robbed an Arby's in 1997. Shawn, as she prefers to be called, claims she concocted the scheme so she could get money to leave her mother, a crack addict who had begun stealing from her children to buy drugs. Because Shawn and her friends didn't know how to drive, Shawn, now 20, asked her mother to drive the getaway car.

The girls had a .22 rifle and went in at closing time. Beverly, now 37, wasn't there when they came out. Shawn and her friends, moneybags and gun in hand, ran down the street, searching frantically for Beverly. When they spotted her driving around aimlessly, they screamed to get her attention. They were almost home when police pulled them over; a customer at the drive-through had gotten the car's tag number. "I try not to blame her," Shawn says. "She shouldn't have done it. We both should've

thought before we did it.” Beverly, who has been released to a halfway house, says, “I should’ve been stronger.” Someday, Shawn knows she will have to apologize to her own daughter. The 4-year-old lives with her father now. She doesn’t remember who Shawn is.

Drugs are an obvious lure into a life of crime for women, but so, surprisingly, are gangs. During her mother’s first prison stint, Michelle Barnes was a member of a prison teen group that was set up to help mothers and children deal with the separation of incarceration. Now, she’s an inmate, too. She and her mother, Mary Braxton, 50, are doing time together for a 1995 murder. “I’ve had the best my mom could give me,” says Barnes, 27, formerly of Minneapolis. Barnes says she stabbed the victim because the woman was punching her mother. With them, history has repeated itself, double time. Braxton was locked up before at Shakopee for participating in a 1985 gang killing of a 16-year-old girl. Barnes says she grew up around violence because her mother was part of a gang.

“I’ve seen murders. I’ve seen robberies. And this was all before the age of 14.” Braxton says she knows how bad this looks. “I take the fault,” she whispers. But Barnes defends her. She says she can separate the bad from the good in her mother. And she insists there is good. “I could’ve been a lot worse than I am,” Barnes says. “It may not have been the ideal motherly type of thing, but I appreciate it.”

**Mommy dearest.** U.S. News asked states as different as Iowa and Texas and Hawaii and Arizona to poll girls in custody, and they reached similar results. Iowa led, with 16 of 25 girls, or 64 percent, saying their mothers had been arrested. In Texas, 14 of 23 girls, or nearly 61 percent, said their mothers had been arrested. And in Hawaii, 5 of 10 girls said their mothers had criminal records, while 28 of 103 Arizona girls said their moms had been in trouble with the law. In California, according to a separate study by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, more than half the nearly 200 girls locked up in four California counties said their mothers had been incarcerated during their childhoods.

“We thought, Wow!” says Mary Nelson, Iowa’s administrator of adult, children, and family services. “This certainly suggests that additional research is appropriate.” Through the more scientific method of random sampling, Colorado, Florida, and Ohio found that 51 percent, 49 percent, and 44 percent of girls in their systems, respectively, had mothers who had been arrested or incarcerated.

Social workers and probation officers at times urge troubled girls to cut ties to law-breaking mothers, but it’s the rare teenage girl who can. From one sentence to the next, a letter from Arnessa Hardin to her mother, Cynthia, 37, in a prison in Gatesville, Texas, shows the roller coaster of feelings she has for her mother. “I wish you were here with me. Please hurry and come home,” she writes. “I want a mother to let me know things.” She also tries to be encouraging. “Mommy, please make your way through this time because now is all we have.” But Arnessa is 15 and angry. “I know for a fact if you would have spent a little more time, I’d be a better person.”

Most people would tell Starr and Arnessa to get away from their mothers, that their moms deserve to be locked up and have their children taken from them. Angry as they are, many girls still want to be with their moms. Because of that loyalty, juvenile officials and child welfare workers say it is worth trying to help the mother to help the daughter. “We forget that when we take a child away from a mother, we put the child in an under-funded state program,” says Warren Hurlbut, the Rhode Island Training School’s superintendent. “These kids are not going to ideal situations . . . and they are not getting help.”

Some probation officers and judges agree that foster care is often worse than leaving children with their drug-addicted mothers. James R. Milliken, presiding judge of San Diego County's juvenile court, says a child in foster care for more than three years will suffer psychological damage beyond repair. "We want them with Mom"—whenever possible, he says. That goal is at odds with recent state and federal laws that make it easier—and faster—to take children from their parents. Those laws may work for younger children, who are more easily adopted. But, says Rose Bruzzo, deputy director of social services for the District of Columbia's Superior Court, no one wants troubled teenage girls.

**Grandma to the rescue.** And the truth is that some mothers have had problems since they were teenagers. Dollie Richardson, 44, formerly of Ann Arbor, Mich., has spent most of the past 19 years in jail or prison, mainly for theft-type cases. She has a drug addiction that dates back to her early teens, and she doesn't feel comfortable outside prison walls. She has four children—all of whom were born behind bars. Cooking a Thanksgiving turkey terrifies her. "I don't want my life to be in vain," she says. "I love my kids. I really do. Maybe I just don't care enough about myself. But everything is, like, a struggle for me. I'm afraid."

Richardson's daughter, also named Dollie, is 16 and consumed with memories of her mother, like the time she watched her steal a fur coat. She also can't forget seeing her little sister, Marriah, a crack baby who is now 7, go through withdrawal. But Dollie doesn't feel completely abandoned, says Joyce Dixon, an ex-inmate and founder of Sons and Daughters of the Incarcerated in Ann Arbor, Mich. She has her grandmother. When the drug epidemic began in the 1980s, grandparents stepped in to help. At first, they thought that taking care of their grandchildren would be temporary, until their daughters kicked their drug habits and got their lives back together. But then the daughters started getting locked up.

Around the country, juvenile and child welfare authorities are realizing that girls are in trouble. "Until 1992, I didn't think much about girls either," says Judy Mayer of Maryland's juvenile-justice system. "But, holy cow, we started getting the data [on girls being locked up] and, my lord, we realized this is a terrible thing." So Maryland launched FIT (the Female Intervention Team) in Baltimore City, assigning all-female caseloads to probation officers trained to deal exclusively with girls. The program has kept many Baltimore girls from getting into trouble again and being pulled deeper into the system.

Today, FIT's "gender-specific programming" is all the rage in juvenile-justice circles, where officials are finally accepting that girls are as different from boys as women are from men. "There isn't any magic to this," says Geno Natalucci-Persichetti, Ohio's juvenile services director, who believes social workers should get back to the basics and help families at the first signs of trouble. "What we need to do is get smart on crime."

## Presenters Biographies

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### **Naya Arbiter**

Founder and Principal, Extensions, a private consulting group. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Amity Foundation of California and Amity, Inc. in Tucson, AZ. Arbiter's career spans three decades, during which she has developed services for pregnant addicts; addicted mothers and their children; teens with histories of chronic addiction, criminality, and violence; intravenous drug users and crack users at high risk of HIV infections; and adolescent and adult addicts, including those who are incarcerated. Together with her colleagues, Arbiter has developed interventions for criminal offenders that, because of their measured reductions in recidivism, have shaped national policy. She is nationally and internationally recognized for her ability to develop new restorative paradigms and practices for adults and adolescents—women and men who have been marginalized through poverty, racism, violence, criminality, and incarceration. Arbiter has developed a comprehensive written curriculum for therapeutic community programs, many of which serve men or women who are incarcerated or under criminal justice supervision in the community. Arbiter also serves on the Board of Directors of Amity of Arizona and the Amity Foundation of California.

### **Barbara Bloom, PhD**

Assistant Professor, Department of Criminal Justice Administration, Sonoma State University. Bloom is a criminal justice consultant, academic, and researcher with more than 20 years experience working with local, State, and national correctional agencies. She specializes in the development and evaluation of programs serving women under correctional supervision. Bloom's publications include: *Why Punish the Children?; A Reappraisal of the Children of Incarcerated Mothers in America; Female Offenders in the Community: An Analysis of Innovative Strategies and Programs; and Profiling the Needs of California's Female Prisoners*. She is currently on contract with the Hawai'i Department of Public Safety to assist them with program development for women offenders.

### **Pamela Bond, MEd, MA**

Vice Principal, Kalaheo High School. Bond was part of the initial staff of the Women's Community Correctional Center Ho'omana Therapeutic Community. She continues to volunteer at WCCC, using healing community concepts in her work with inmates. She has worked in the field of violence against women for over twenty years, starting the first program for children in a shelter in Oregon in 1978. Bond's professional experience includes administration, counseling, training and advocacy in rape crisis centers and shelters for battered women in Oregon, Wyoming, Colorado, Texas and Hawai'i. For the past ten years she has worked for the Hawai'i Department of Education, and has served as counselor, registrar and administrator at Kailua High School.

### **Chianti "Serena" Camara**

Resident Monitor, TJ Mahoney and Associates, a transitional, residential program for female offenders re-entering the community from the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC). An ex-offender, Camara was sent to prison in 1992 and discharged from parole in 1998. She graduated with honors from Honolulu Community College with an A.S. degree in Human Services. She is a member of the Department of Public Safety's Community Advisory Board on Gender Appropriate Programming. She is the first ex-offender to serve on the Hawai'i Corrections Population Management Commission.

## Presenters Biographies

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### **Meda Chesney-Lind, PhD**

Professor of Women's Studies, University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Chesney-Lind is nationally recognized for her outspoken advocacy for girls and women, particularly those who find their way into the criminal justice system. Her work on the problem of sexism in the treatment of girls in the juvenile justice system was partially responsible for the recent national attention devoted to services to girls in that system. Her books include *Girls, Delinquency and Juvenile Justice*, which was awarded the American Society of Criminology's Michael J. Hindelang Award for "outstanding contribution to criminology" in 1992, *The Female Offender: Girls, Women and Crime*, which was published in spring 1999 by Sage, and an edited collection entitled *Girls and Gangs in America*, recently published by Lakeview Press. Chesney-Lind has received numerous awards for her prolific work and research. She continues to call attention to the soaring rate of women's imprisonment and the need to vigorously seek alternatives to women's incarceration.

### **Marylou Clizbe, MSW, MPA**

President/Executive Director, Insights to Success, a provider of vocational rehabilitation services. Clizbe's experience in the labor sector includes counseling, vocational assessment and evaluation, job analysis, development, placement and training. Her professional experience also encompasses human and social services in the state of Washington, where she was a supervisor in the Child Protective Services Division and a social worker for Catholic Charities. She is a former Senior Vice President for Security Pacific Bank (now Bank of America.) Clizbe is a PhD candidate in clinical psychology and public administration.

### **Clarice Cornett**

Director, Building Women Program, a pre-apprentice training opportunity for women pursuing a career in the construction industry. Cornett's construction career began in the remote village of Point Barrow, Alaska, where her first job was accomplished in 50 degrees below zero weather. Her family later moved to Hawai'i and she went on to graduate from the University of Hawaii with a BA in Liberal Studies. Cornett is the owner of Wahine Builders, an all-woman construction company which she founded in 1986 after learning the carpentry trade. Throughout the years, Cornett has dedicated herself to promoting quality crafts(wo)manship and encouraging women to excel in the construction industry. Cornett is the current president of Associated Builders and Contractors, Hawai'i Chapter.

### **Stephanie Covington, PhD, LCSW**

Co-Director, Institute for Relational Development and Center for Gender and Justice, La Jolla, California. Covington has more than 20 years of experience in the design and implementation of treatment services for women. She is a clinician, author, organizational consultant and lecturer in the public and private sectors. She has received national and international recognition for her work on women's issues, addiction, sexuality, families and relationships. Her primary interest is in gender-responsive services. Her 12 years of experience in the criminal justice system includes training, speaking, writing, and consulting. She has published numerous articles and co-authored the book *Leaving the Enchanted Forest: The Path from Relationship Addiction to Intimacy*. Her latest publication is *Helping Women Recover: A Program for Treating Substance Abuse* (a special edition for the criminal justice system).

## Presenters Biographies

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### **Laura Crites**

Executive Director, Hawai'i Women's Business Center. Crites has committed her energies to the cause of women offenders for over 25 years. In 1975 she founded and served as director of the American Bar Association's National Resource Center on Women Offenders. That same year, she published *The Female Offender*, which examined sex-biased treatment of women offenders. In 1997 she published a book on gender bias in the courts, *Women and the Courts*, in which she included an article on women offenders. After teaching with the University of Maryland in Germany, she moved to Hawai'i in 1985 and became director of the Family Peace Center, addressing the problem of domestic violence. In 1993 she was contracted by the Hawai'i Department of Public Safety to write a domestic abuse healing curriculum for women offenders and participated in developing the first therapeutic community at the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC). She is a member of the Department of Public Safety Community Advisory Board on Gender Appropriate Programming and continues to dedicate herself to helping women achieve economic self-sufficiency through training, entrepreneurship and financial management.

### **Alice Dickow**

Director, Saint Francis Women's Addiction Treatment Center of Hawai'i (WATCH). Dickow has worked for WATCH for 13 years. She is a certified counselor and serves as an examiner for the Hawai'i Certification Board for substance abuse counselors. She also serves as Principal Investigator for the Matrix Methamphetamine Treatment Project, which conducts research on and provides outpatient treatment for women who use methamphetamine. Dickow recently authored "Special Populations Using Methamphetamine," which was published in the June 2000 issue of *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*.

### **Wayne Duehn, PhD**

Professor, School of Social Work, University of Texas at Arlington. Duehn also maintains a private practice in individual, marital and family therapy, and is currently doing clinical research on sexually abusive parents and juvenile sexual offenders. He is a recognized authority and educator in the intervention and treatment of sexually abusive families. A national lecturer and trainer, Duehn is also a consultant to many institutions including the National Association of Social Workers, Big Brothers/Big Sisters Association and has conducted training for law enforcement personnel, schools, social service and mental health agencies throughout the United States. He was a research associate at the Masters and Johnson Institute and has done post-doctoral work and taught at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. He has written extensively in the area of clinical practice and is the co-author of *Beyond Sexual Abuse: The Healing Power of Adoptive Families*. Most recently, he developed a child abuse prevention program for the Department of Defense Dependents School which has been implemented worldwide.

### **Myra Hager, MBA**

Co-President/Executive Director of Operations, Insights to Success, a provider of vocational rehabilitation services. Hager was an educator with the Hawai'i Department of Education and employment placement coordinator with Network Enterprises. Her labor and employment experience includes counseling, vocational assessment and evaluation, job analysis, development, placement and training.

## Presenters Biographies

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### **Celeste Hallstrom**

Resident of TJ Mahoney, a residential, transitional program for female offenders re-entering the community from the Women's Community Correctional Center. Hallstrom is the mother of two grown children. She began her drug addiction at 15 years of age and was drug free for many periods of her life. However, her addiction continued and she was sent to prison in 1998. Hallstrom has been enrolled in and completed numerous substance abuse programs. [Since the symposium, Celeste was paroled in January 2001 and is currently employed at a transitional facility for parolees.]

### **Denise Johnston, MD**

Co-founder and Director, Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents, Pasadena and Eagle Rock, California. Johnston is a leading national authority on children and criminal offenders. Previously, she was an instructor at the University of California at Santa Cruz, director of community health worker training for the Los Angeles region federal family planning agency, and medical director of the Feminist Women's Health Care and Childbirth Center in Hollywood, California. She has been a founding member of the boards of several organizations for women offenders including Phase ReEntry Programs, the National Network for Women in Prison, and Girls in Gangs in Los Angeles County. Johnston has completed major research projects, including the first longitudinal study of the children of criminal offenders and the "Children of Criminal Offenders and Foster Care" study. She is co-author of *Children of Incarcerated Parents*.

### **Valerie Mariano**

Chief, Community and Crime Prevention Branch, Crime Prevention and Justice Administration Division, Hawai'i Department of the Attorney General. Mariano has been educating and informing the community on crime prevention since 1987. As branch chief she is responsible for the administrative oversight of all education and crime prevention training projects, programs and workshops. Her office responds to requests from the general public and government entities for education and crime prevention services. Her office also coordinates the *McGruff, the Take A Bite Out of Crime* statewide campaign.

### **Beverly Nakamoto**

Unit Supervisor, Social Service Division, Hawai'i Department of Human Services (DHS). After graduating from Western State College of Colorado, Nakamoto taught elementary school in New Mexico for seven years. A native of Kaua'i, she returned to Hawai'i and worked as an underwriter for Industrial Indemnity and Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children as an educational technician. Her interest in helping people led her to a job with DHS, where she began as an income maintenance worker 17 years ago. In addition to her full time job, she is also enrolled at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where she is pursuing a master's degree in social work.

### **Emma Pavich, MSW, ACSW, LSW**

A self-employed counselor, trainer and therapist, Pavich is a well known consultant in staff and program development, corporate communications and leadership building. Her area of specialization includes working with victims of domestic violence and sex abuse. She has been recognized by the National Association of Social Workers for outstanding community service. Pavich also writes a column, "On Schools," which is featured in The Honolulu Advertiser.

## Presenters Biographies

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### **Myrna S. Raeder, JD**

Professor, Southwestern University School of Law, Los Angeles, California. In addition to being a prolific writer in the fields of evidence and procedure, Raeder is a nationally known expert on gender and sentencing, a topic about which she has written and lectured intensively. Raeder is a past chair of the American Bar Association's Criminal Justice Section, and the Association of American Law School's Sections on Women in Legal Education and Evidence. She is also a past president of National Association of Women Lawyers. She is the author of the book, *The Forgotten Offender*. Raeder has also commented on a variety of legal issues for television, radio and in the print media.

### **Nicole H. Rafter, PhD**

Professor, Law, Policy, and Society Programs, Northeastern University. At Northeastern, Rafter introduced one of the first courses in the country on women, gender, and crime. She has published more than two dozen articles in leading criminological, historical, and sociological journals, written eight books including the only full-scale history of the women's prison system, and edited two collections on feminist criminology. She is also the author of the book *Partial Justice: Women, Prisons, and Social Control*. A recipient of grants from the National Science Foundation, New York State Archives, and Department of Justice, Rafter has also received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the State University of New York, Albany, and the Wilbur Founder's Award of the American Association of Mental Retardation for the research contribution of *Creating Born Criminals*, her history of biological theories of crime. Rafter has held many offices in academic and professional organizations, including Chair of the Crime, Law, and Deviance section of the American Sociological Association and Chair of the American Society of Criminology's Division on Women and Crime.

### **Lorraine Robinson, ACSW**

Director, TJ Mahoney and Associates, a transitional, residential program for female offenders re-entering the community from the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC). Robinson was previously a social worker at WCCC. She recently served as a criminal justice consultant providing technical assistance and training to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on the design and implementation of a correctional treatment facility. Robinson also has extensive experience working with at risk and adjudicated youth. She serves as adjunct faculty for the University of Hawai'i School of Social Work, and supervises interns from Chaminade University, Hawai'iHawaii Pacific University and the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. She is Program Committee Co-Chair of the Department of Public Safety Community Advisory Board on Gender Appropriate Programming. She continues a history of community advocacy for female offenders through her work as president of the Board of Directors for Community Alliance on Prisons, a grassroots coalition focusing on prison reform.

### **Gary Wiseman**

Executive Director, Hawai'i Chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC). Wiseman has been executive director of ABC since 1995. ABC is a trade organization whose membership consists of 102 construction-related firms. Prior to joining ABC, Gary spent fourteen years working in public accounting for several CPA firms and as a comptroller for various construction companies. He was reared in Texas and moved to Hawai'i in 1983.



## HAWAII SYMPOSIUM ON FEMALE OFFENDERS

Treat the Women...Save the Children

November 29, 30 and December 1, 2000

Sheraton Kauai Resort

### AGENDA

#### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

- 3:00 pm      Registration in the Garden Lobby
- 5:00 pm      Reception in Poipu Ballroom II/III
- 6:00 pm      Welcome by Kaua'i Mayor Maryanne W. Kusaka  
Opening Remarks by Hawaii Dept. of Public Safety Director Ted Sakai  
Opening Address by Lieutenant Governor Mazie K. Hirono  
Defining the Myth
- 8:00 pm      Adjournment

#### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

- 7:00 am      Breakfast on the Lanai of the Poipu Ballroom
- 8:00 am      Building the Case—Why Focus on Women Offenders
- Dr. Myrna Raeder, Law Professor and author of *The Forgotten Offender*
  - Dr. Nicole Rafter, Law Professor and author of *Partial Justice: Women, Prisons and Social Control*
  - Moderator: Honorable Eden Elizabeth Hifo, Judge, First Judicial Circuit
- Why is it important to talk about female offenders? How are women in prison treated differently from men? How has the system resulted in women receiving “partial justice” and being the “forgotten offender”?
- 9:15 am      Q & A: Delegate Questions for the Panel

- 9:30 am      Girl's and Gender Specific Programming in Hawaii
- Youth Panelist One, formerly incarcerated at the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility
  - Youth Panelist Two, currently incarcerated at the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility
  - Debra Shiraishi-Pratt, Program Specialist, Hawaii Girls Project, Office of Youth Services, Department of Human Services
- What does Hawaii's adolescent female offender look like? What are some of the issues they face and how does the system deal with these issues?
- 10:15 am      Q & A: Delegate Questions
- 10:30 am      Break
- 10:45 am      Her Story, From Number to Name
- Naya Arbiter, Founder and Principal, Extensions / Board of Directors, Amity
- 11:30 am      Luncheon in the Shells Restaurant
- Women in the 21st Century
- Dr. Stephanie Covington, CO-Director, Center for Gender and Justice and author of *Helping Women Recover: A Program for Treating Substance Abuse*
- 1:00 pm      Through the Looking Glass...Yesterday's Child
- During this session, delegates will act out a three-scene play depicting defining moments in the life of Sandy, a female offender. Between scenes two and three, presentations by national speakers on the subject will be offered.
- The play will be directed by:
- Roxanne Aburamen, Manager, Hawaii Intake Service Center
  - Honorable Riki May Amano, Judge, Third Circuit
  - Kathleen Chase, Casey Family Programs, Hilo Division
  - Boni Grimm, Casey Family Programs, Hilo Division
- The presenters are:
- Dr. Wayne Duehn, Professor and co-author of *Beyond Sexual Abuse: The Healing Power of Adoptive Families*
  - Dr. Meda Chesney-Lind, Women's Studies Professor and author of *The Female Offender: Girls, Women and Crime*
  - Dr. Denise Johnston, Director of the Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents and co-author of *Children of Incarcerated Parents*
- 5:00 pm      Adjournment

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

- 7:00 am Breakfast in the Lanai of the Poipu Ballroom
- 8:00 am Promising Interventions--Looking at Gender Responsive Programming
- Dr. Barbara Bloom, Professor and author of *Why Punish the Children?*
  - Dr. Stephanie Covington, Co-Director of Institute for Relational Development and author of *Helping Women Recover: A Program for Treating Substance Abuse*
  - Alice Dickow, Saint Francis WATCH Program
  - Lorraine Robinson, Director, TJ Mahoney / Matlock Hale
  - Moderator: Laura Crites, Director, Hawaii Women's Business Center
- What does it mean to be gender specific and gender responsive?  
What creates an effective intervention? How do we address barriers to services, especially with regard to substance abuse and children?
- 9:15 am Q & A: Delegate Questions for the Panel
- 9:30 am Break
- 9:45 am The Light Keeps Shining
- Pamela Bond, Volunteer, Ho'omana Therapeutic Community, Women's Community Correctional Center
  - Jo Kamae Byrne, President, Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii
  - Chianti "Serena" Camara, Resident Monitor, TJ Mahoney
  - Mary Scott-Lau, Director, Women in Need
- This activity will build better awareness and understanding of how women cover up the hurt, shame and low self-esteem that accompany domestic violence and substance abuse. Participants will learn how to peel off those layers of hurt to get to the inner light that shines within.
- 10:15 am Break
- 10:30 am Creating Systems to Support Women's Development:: Concurrent Workshops
- 10:30 am Workshop 1: Holistic Healing from Domestic Abuse (Lawai Room)
- Laura Crites, Director, Hawaii Women's Business Center
  - Pam Bond, Volunteer, Ho'omana Therapeutic Community
- Increase awareness and understanding of the process women go through to heal and rebuild positive self-esteem.
- 10:30 am Workshop 2: From Prison to Paycheck (Koloa Room)

- 10:30 am     Workshop 2: From Prison to Paycheck (Koloa Room)
- Clarice Cornett, Owner, Wahine Builders
  - Marylou Clizbe, President and Executive Director, Insights to Success
  - Myra Hager, Co-President, Insights to Success
  - Gary Wiseman, Executive Director, Associated Builders & Contractors
  - Moderator: Maureen Tito, Education Services Manager, Corrections Programs Office, Hawaii Department of Public Safety
- Learn how incarcerated women prepare for the job market. Understand the challenges and stigmas that await women offenders when they are released. Who hires ex-offenders?
- 10:30 am     Workshop 3: Caring for the Children (Poipu Ballroom)
- Chianti “Serena” Camara and Ciara Kahalewai
  - Celeste Hallstrom and Dori Anne Durlak
  - Beverly Nakamoto, Unit Supervisor, Child Welfare Services, Hawaii Department of Human Services
  - Moderator: Katherine Gabel, Western Regional Leader, Casey Family Programs and co-author of *Children of Incarcerated Parents*
- What happens to the children of incarcerated mothers? What challenges--emotional, physical and social--do they face? How can we better help them through the programs and services they need from health and human service agencies?
- 11:30 am     Luncheon in Poipu Ballroom  
Women Offenders and Their Children  
Dr. Denise Johnston, Director, Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents and co-author of *Children of Incarcerated Parents*
- 12:45 pm     Paint a Picture of a Different Future
- Emma Pavich, Counselor and Trainer
  - Val Mariano, Community and Crime Prevention Branch Chief, Department of the Attorney General
- Comparing pre-symposium and current thoughts on problems and solutions. Ordering priorities and creating an action plan to stir excitement and expand on ideas. Sharing of each county’s next action steps: next meeting, who’s responsible for which tasks.
- 3:15 pm     Wrap Up
- 3:30 pm     Adjournment